

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 15th February, at Yokohama, the wife of CHAS. F. GARRY, of a son.

On the 20th February, at Yokohama, the wife of S. KOMOR, of a son.

On the 28th February, at No. 49, Wyndham Street, the wife of CHARLES MOONEY, of a son.

On the 28th February, at No. 2, Kungping Road, Shanghai, the wife of FREDERICK RAYDEN, of a son.

On the 27th February, at Chefoo, the wife of GUSTAV GIPPERICH, of a son.

On the 28th February, at No. 2, Kungping Road, the wife of FREDERICK RAYDEN, of a son.

On the 2nd March, at "Greenmount," Hongkong, the wife of E. M. HAZELAND, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 23rd February, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, FR. DERIC PERCIVAL PRATT, to HARRIET STUART, second daughter of Dr. THOMAS HALL TRIPPER, of Yokohama.

On the 25th February, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, the Rev. T. BIGGIN, M.A., to Miss GEORGINA SMITH, both of the London Mission, Peking.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 3rd February arrived, per N.D.L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 5th March (30 days); and the U.S. mail arrived, per T.K.K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, on the 7th March.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The number of cases of plague reported in the Colony since the 1st of January now amounts to 52.

The Grand Duke Nicholas, Inspector-General of Cavalry, leaves St Petersburg shortly on a tour through Manchuria.

The Peking correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* reports that Mrs. Conger, wife of the U.S. Minister, entertained at luncheon on the 21st ult. in the U.S. Legation the eldest Princess Imperial, and the wives of certain Princes and Dukes.

The Brussels correspondent of the *Standard* states that the Manager of the Peking-Hankow railway declares Dr. Colman's apprehensions of the imminence of another Boxer rising to be unfounded. This coincides with reports received by the Belgian Government.

Governor Taft has announced that the three millions of dollars appropriated by Congress for the use of the Philippine Islands has been set aside for special purposes. Of the sum, \$1,000,000 will be devoted to the establishment of an agricultural bank; \$1,000,000 will go to the purchase of carabao, and the remaining \$1,000,000 is to be used in the founding of a university.

In the House of Commons, on the 26th ult., Mr. Joseph Walton, M.P., questioned the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as to the *modus vivendi* agreed upon by the Powers regarding consular jurisdiction in Shanghai. Lord Cranborne replied that the arrangement was provisional, but he would give it if it were moved for.

The *Times* Paris correspondent, on the 1st inst., discussing the persistent rumours of impending trouble in China, says the peace of Europe is as much imperilled by affairs in the Far East as by affairs in the Balkan Peninsula. The *New York Herald* considers that Russia's undoubted military activity is due to the aspect of affairs in the Far East rather than to the trouble in the Balkans.

Dr. Morrison in an interesting contribution to the *Times* on "Manchuria and the Russian Railway" says:—Rouble notes circulate in Manchuria literally in millions. They are the most favoured currency. They are easily carried and easily concealed and are familiar from one end of Manchuria to the other. It is virtually a currency that has been given to the Chinese in Manchuria.

The *Globe* regards Chang Chih-tung's degradation as a plain endeavour to further undermine British influence in the Yangtze region, and is very severe on the passivity of the Foreign Office. The *Globe* hopes the united remonstrances of Great Britain and Japan will secure His Excellency's reinstatement, and adds:—"We are in honour bound to protect him." Chang Chih-tung has made a request to be allowed to visit Peking, via the Luhan railway, for the purpose of obtaining a special audience of the Empress Dowager. The request has been granted, but His Excellency's friends are trying to dissuade him, fearing that his visit to Peking may result in his being permanently shelved.

L'Opinion of Saigon has published two articles on the decline of the Messagerie, Maritimes, which it attributes mainly to two causes, the cost involved by carrying mails, and the lack of cargo business of the Company, and expresses the hope that the action of the directors in adding 15,000,000 francs to the capital for the purpose of cargo trade will bring prosperity again to the Company.

Commenting on the recent meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce convened to consider the currency question, the *Singapore Free Press* observes:—"The fact that even in Hongkong, where the influences making for retaining the actual currency conditions are far stronger than in the Straits, a majority of opinion is for a critical revision of these conditions, has an indirect effect in strengthening the case in the Straits for fixation of our currency."

The London correspondent of the *Berliner Tagblatt* telegraphed to that journal, on January 24th, that Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister at Peking, is preparing a treaty with China, which will establish close relations between the Southern Chinese provinces, on the one hand, and India and Burma on the other. The telegram also asserts that English firms, despite the treaty forbidding the importation of arms into China, have sent ships laden with arms and ammunition to that country.

The *Universal Gazette* states that Boxerism is still alive in Chihli province, and that news had been received to the effect that at Ch'ichou, east of Peking, Boxers have openly attacked a number of Christians, in consequence of which the Governor of Peking had removed the sub-prefect of Ch'ichou. At Jench'in, a district of Hochien prefecture, also, Boxer partisans are reported to have created several disturbances against Christians, while news has also been received of similar occurrences in Yutienhsien, Tientsin prefecture.

A Seoul telegram to the Japanese Press states that M. E. Stein, Russian Chargé d'Affaires demanded of the Korean Government on the 15th ult., on behalf of Baron Gunsburg, the concession for laying the Seoul-Wiju Railway. This concession was originally granted to a French citizen, but he did nothing with it, and the concession is now in the hands of the North-West Railway Bureau, which is virtually under French guidance. The Japanese have been hoping to get the concession, and the present Russian application, remarks the *Japan Gazette*, is probably intended to block the anticipated Japanese demand.

L'Opinion of Saigon sums up the Hanoi Exhibition in the following terms:—"We do not, however, much regret what has been done. If a lot of money has been expended, we can hope by the great publicity that has resulted for Indo-China, that we have effected there an advance of capital which will be soon regained. Besides, has not M. Beau himself, in his numerous speeches, affirmed his sympathy with regard to the labourer and promised his assistance to all those who are disposed to co-operate in the development of the riches of the Colony? Let us then have confidence and resolve, by our combined efforts, to make still greater this Indo-China of whose infinite resources we know to-day."

CHINESE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 28th February.)

Even so inert a body as the Chinese Government is slowly and gradually discovering that it must do something towards the reform of its currency, and we hear of various tentative measures being recommended at Peking. Unfortunately all are characterised by an inability of power to grasp the situation, and a disposition towards half measures, which under the conditions, instead of alleviating, will rather tend to aggravate the disease. Of these the scheme which has seemed to meet with most favour is one of a tael currency proposed by Yuan Shikai, which in addition to the complications it would propose to add, would tally with none of the taels already current. Yuan then proposes to issue, under imperial authority, a tael which shall be of the standard Kuping weight, that is the universal weight of the monetary tael, 579.85 oz. troy, but shall contain one-tenth alloy, that is 900 fine. The very idea, which has perhaps been impressed on him from without, shows a lamentable ignorance of the methods of account universally current in China. The monetary tael in China, it is necessary to reiterate, is a standard weight throughout the Empire, and does not vary. The local tael (money) is weighed by the standard tael weight, but not only does the "fineness" vary in different localities, but certain allowances of weight have become customary. In estimating thus a Shanghai tael, we find in the first instance by old custom an *ad misericordiam* allowance of some 2 per cent. has to be added, 98 taels counting as 100, while the fineness is taken as 916; we thus arrive at 520.52 as the actual amount of pure silver contained in the local tael. As however the Chinese Government demands pure silver, the Shanghai tael is only accepted at a discount, and has to be multiplied by 1.114, which is the amount fixed by the local regulations. With the proposed new tael, we should still be in the same dilemma, the only difference being that instead of multiplying by 1.114, we should now have to multiply by 1.111 to obtain the standard. To make the proposed tael, in fact, equivalent to the standard Government tael, and assuming the "touch" to be as suggested, 900 fine, we should require a tael of 644.28 grains. Such a coin, assuming that exchange did not enter into consideration, would of course amply fulfil all the requirements of the situation, and might be accepted in payment of all duties or other payments to the Government.

This, however, though doubtless a convenience to the payer of duties, would afford no assistance to the Chinese Government itself, nor could it in any way relieve that Government from the necessity of exporting silver to make up the adverse balance still standing against it. By carefully manipulating the amount coined, it is true, it might contrive to keep the tael at a corresponding ratio with regard to gold, as the Indian Government contrives to do with its rupees; but to do so would require an amount of knowledge of the principles of currency such as the Chinese as a Government have never displayed, as well as an ability to resist the temptation of over-issue to which as a people they have ever been strangers, and which is quite at variance with all their tradition. So long as the current tael stood at a level, however infinitesimal, above the sycee value there would be a temptation to over-issue. This temptation of course exists in every case where the face value of a currency

is in excess of its intrinsic value. We have only too many examples of the process in the case of over-issue of currency notes, from the after effects of which many of the principal nations of the world are only just now recovering, but the principle is the same, whether an inferior metal or mere paper is intended to bear a face value out of proportion with its intrinsic worth. However convenient and profitable such a currency might prove to the debtors of the State, it is absolutely valueless, unless effectual steps could be taken to maintain its par value, to restore the mercantile credit of the country in its foreign relations; and the Chinese Government has yet to prove that it possesses the necessary wish, even if it had the power, to provide the required safeguards.

Even, however, did China by any reform of her home currency succeed in placing her internal affairs on a sounder basis than at present exists, this would be of little service to her in her foreign relations. It is quite possible that for all home affairs her new tael could be made capable of being maintained at an invariable value, but no power on earth could make it interchangeable all the world over. In the markets of the world silver is valued, like all other commodities, for what it is worth. Lately owing to excessive supply the price of silver has had a distinct tendency to fall, and it requires little knowledge of finance to understand that any artificial circumstance that would lead to an enforced sale would as a necessary consequence lead to a still further drop—probably out of all proportion to the amount placed on the market. Now it is the case that China, owing to the complications that surround her, is in the position of having regularly to place silver bullion on the European markets to be sold to the highest bidder. The question is a difficult one, and quite independent of her internal currency; it is the pressing question of the hour, and dawdling about any subject of less urgency is of little more avail than was Nero's fiddling in the face of burning Rome. In fact, as long as China so regulates her trade with foreign nations that she is compelled to place on a foreign market any of her silver, so long must the course of exchange be against her, provided of course that she obstinately continues to found her currency on a falling metal. The assimilation of her currency to the rest of the world would of course result in silver taking its place as a mere mercantile export, and so becoming a matter of secondary importance that might be left to effect its own cure. As the silver export now stands, China is sending abroad her own life-blood, and thereby increasing the disadvantages of her present position, for as the necessary circulating medium is becoming more difficult to obtain on the spot, in like proportion is it losing its purchasing powers abroad. Now this, and not the mere regulation of currency at home, is the pressing need of the moment, and this, rather than the reform of a currency from which comparatively little loss is felt would be far more with China's consonant need. What China momentarily wants is a safe method of adjusting her accounts with the nations of the world; and as we have before remarked she can only accomplish this by such an effective opening of her foreign trade as will suffice to fill the gaps caused by her late reckless policy.

Vice-Admiral Tyrtov, a former Russian admiral on the Far Eastern Station, and commanding the Black Sea Division of the Russian fleet, died at Sebastopol on 24th ult.

"DUMPING" OF PLAGUE CASES.

(Daily Press, 2nd March.)

It is with much regret we note the silent and steady if not rapid increase in the number of cases of plague in this Colony. On Friday last four cases, all Chinese, were reported, bringing the year's total thus far to thirty cases. All these four cases were fatal, and they occurred in different parts of the Colony. But none of these four cases were dumped, though this practice has been extremely prevalent of late. This is a practice that should, at all costs, be put down, for it undoubtedly helps to spread the disease in more than one direction. In the first case the removal of the body from the tenement occupied by deceased renders it improbable that any effective disinfection is practised in such tenement, and consequently the likelihood of the contagion being spread is enormously increased. The other occupants would, not unnaturally—if the body had been removed—object to the publicity which a good and thorough disinfection of the premises would entail, and the probability is, in most instances, that no steps are taken to cleanse or disinfect the contaminated rooms or cubicles, and the disease is further disseminated. The exposure of the body in the street also has the effect of propagating the disease and causing alarm to timid persons. Moreover, it imposes on the authorities the cost and trouble of the disposal of the body. There should be no insuperable difficulty in grappling with this offence. It is true that the dumping generally takes place in the night when the streets are empty and the chances of detection are lessened. But if the Police took special measures to detect the offenders they certainly ought not to meet—as they now appear to do—with uniform want of success. Granted that the persons engaged in dumping make a practice of watching the movements of the Police, there should still be no difficulty in outwitting these offenders. It is not our place here to suggest the means, but they are not so very far to seek, and if necessary the employment of informers should be resorted to. It is nothing short of a scandal at present that the Chinese can at their pleasure, without let or hindrance, deposit their dead bodies in the streets of Victoria without running any risk of punishment, thus evading the performance of their duties in the matter, and setting at open defiance the laws of the Colony. If the Police really buckled to this task in grim earnest some of the dumpers would soon be captured, and if made a sharp example of their fate would deter others from adopting the same expedient for getting rid of their friends and shuffling out of the cost and trouble of burying their dead. A warning from His Excellency the Governor addressed to the Police Force to the effect that dumping must be detected and punished would no doubt have an excellent effect.

Paris telegrams to the *Echo de Chine* say that M. Delcassé, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has informed the Foreign Affairs Committee that the Government refused to communicate the documents demanded by the Committee. At the annual dinner of the Committee of French Asia, to which were invited the Ministers of Japan, China, Corea, and Siam, and at which Messrs. Deloncle, Henricque, and Klobukowski were present, the chairman, M. Etienne, declared that France is very strong because she has no idea of making conquests; that she wishes to live in peace with the Asiatic populations; that she demands nothing more than respect for her rights and her territorial and commercial interests; in a word, that France will use her efforts to bring to the Far East her ideas of science, generosity, and industry.

RUSSIA AND THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 4th March.)

A telegram from our special correspondent in London which appears in another column tells us that the *New York Herald* considers Russia's undoubted military activity to be due to the aspect of affairs in the Far East rather than to the trouble in the Balkans. What aspect of affairs in this part of the world is at the present moment calling for any exceptional military activity on the part of Russia is not very apparent, but it is obvious to all that if Russia's intentions in the Far East are pacific she pins her faith firmly to the dictum that preparation for war is the best security for peace. Even during the two short months of the present year sufficient has happened to arouse more than ordinary interest in Russia's movements in the Far East. Her fleet in the Pacific is being increased—though the progress of these six or seven vessels Eastward is remarkably slow; transports continue to bring out troops from Odessa—1,300 were landed at Vladivostok early last month, and these were described as part of the force to arrive for important military mobilisation in March. We have had the news too that the Grand Duke NICHOLAS, Inspector-General of the Russian Cavalry, is leaving St. Petersburg shortly on a tour through Manchuria. No one can seriously credit Russia with the intention of evacuating Manchuria while every indication points to the contrary. Not content with the strength of her military position along the Manchurian frontier, the Russian authorities, it has been stated, are engaged on a plan for equipping the whole navigable length of the Amur with a flotilla of specially-constructed gunboats, and in view of the strategical value of this waterway, at the entrance to which stands Nikolaievsk, the vicinity of this port will be mined and Nikolaievsk fortified and equipped to enable it to effectively command the entrance to the frontier waterway. At Vladivostok just now we note that there does not seem to be any knowledge of what is intended by the "important military mobilisation" which is to take place this month, and the absence of information leads to the general conclusion that Russia is bent as seriously as ever upon asserting a paramount interest not only in the Amur regions but throughout Manchuria. In Vladivostok itself measures are stated to be on foot to confine the Chinese to the outskirts of the town and to compel the registration of all Chinese, Japanese and Koreans. And in this connection it may be worth while recalling the fact of negotiations for the sale of four of the largest and fastest Volunteer Fleet cruisers being abruptly broken off at the end of last year and these ships—which had lain in reserve for the greater part of the year—were again ordered to be kept in reserve with two others in the Black Sea. Commenting on this the *Times* correspondent at Odessa aptly wrote:—"Whatever may be the motives actuating the Russian Government and the Volunteer Fleet authorities for detaining indefinitely in an idleness which spells heavy financial loss the entire flotilla of 20-knot Volunteer Fleet cruisers, capable of mounting between them in time of war just under 100 quick-firing guns of various calibre, and carrying between them, besides transport, from 10,000 to 20,000 men, according to distance, and in time of peace capable of accommodating about 7,000 passengers and some 35,000 tons of general cargo, the step in itself is both an unusual and a remarkable one." What it means Time

alone will reveal. Russia has most certainly been preparing for the eventuality of trouble on the Balkans, but the clouds in that part of the world having apparently lifted, continued military activity on the part of Russia would naturally be assumed to have another object.

RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA.

(Daily Press, 5th March.)

It is becoming perfectly clear that the hope expressed by the leading English papers that the Government will not permit itself to be quietly ousted from its position in southern Persia, as it practically has been in northern China, was not uttered a day too soon. The ways of Russia are perfectly well known; like all Powers that have essayed the part of mere conquerors without the preliminaries of civilising the subject peoples, she has found that the further she advances, the greater is the need for strengthening her already over-extended frontiers. It was precisely this discovery of the danger of an active enemy on her western frontier that impelled the first DARIUS, probably against his will, to undertake the conquest of Greece. Had Persia stopped short before the conquest of Egypt brought her into hostile relations with the Grecian States, she would have been able to consolidate her conquests in Asia Minor, and introduce the much-needed reforms into her already vast empire, but the craze of conquest was on her, and the struggle with the Greek mercenaries in the pay of the PHARAOHS, really led the way to her own eventual dismemberment at the hands of ALEXANDER THE GREAT. Russia not having taken the time, and probably not possessing the ability to develop her Central Asian conquests, before overcome with her restless ambition of still further extending her frontiers, has been brought face to face with a situation where to advance or recede is equally fraught with danger. Like Persia of old, Russia's natural weapons are bluff and cajolery, and she will only proceed to arms in the last extremity, after she has exhausted every other means of corruption or diplomacy. She has now attained to a position wherein the further exercise of these customary arts is becoming more and more difficult. Persia and Afghanistan are in more western Asia almost the only countries left to buy, and with England immediately on the other frontier the market price has gone up almost beyond Russia's abilities. China and Corea are quite open to bribery, but Japan and England are both of them inconveniently inquisitive, so that the opportunities are becoming rarer and rarer. Under the circumstances, Russia, as did Persia before her, has had to descend to bluff. Bluff, however, is an expensive game. Russia has long been desirous of having a powerful navy, but the more she strengthened her power at sea, the more she found that England was prepared to outbuild her; now Japan has joined England, and if Russia is ever to have anything to gain by sea power she recognises that her ability must be quickly shown, or the opportunity will be lost for ever. This of course, is the true reason of the enormous strengthening of her fleet in the Far East. For her European ambitions, her fleet is practically useless; in any offensive operations in Persia or Central Asia, it might, except as a weapon of bluff, be as well forty fathoms under the ocean. It may, nevertheless, be made use of to bluff off Japan at the crucial moment, and so incidentally become of

value, even in the deserts of Central Asia. Any war on the frontiers of India must of necessity be military; England is here mistress of the sea, but as affairs stand Russia's military force in Central Asia is at the moment weak, and Russia is too well aware of the fact to care to appeal to arms without trying what other arts can accomplish. She has consequently been trying those other measures in which long use has made her an adept; she has therefore been ostentatiously increasing her armaments, but herein she has to face many inconveniences if not positive dangers. With all her ill-will towards England, Germany has in her inmost heart, did she have but the courage to confess it to herself, a mortal terror of Russia. Germany and Austria, though bitter rivals, have at least one common bond of union, and that is their mutual suspicion of Russia, and their jealousy of any real strengthening of her land forces. The threatened increase of Russia's armies has also had another very perceptible result, in that it has impelled Great Britain to lay her hand to the task of at last really strengthening her land forces. This is of course the true secret of the debates at present going on in Parliament. If we are to engage in a contest for life and death on Asiatic soil, it will not suffice to stake our all on our Indian army. No nation that has had to depend on strangers and mercenary troops but has had ultimately to lament the loss of its independence.

We have no reason to suspect the fidelity of our Indian army; but to retain that fidelity it is necessary that we should exhibit our own ability to bear our own burdens. No brave soldier can feel other than contempt for a pusillanimous general; and no ruling race which has once lost its own fighting instincts, can retain the fidelity of its subjects. The question then of the reform of our army is intimately bound up with our capacity to rule our imperial heritage. Even if the alternative be to make Great Britain a military nation, and cajole her people into paying war rates during the time of peace, such a course, even financially, is preferable to earning the contempt of our dependencies, who will certainly in such a case repay our indifference to our own honour by taking the first opportunity of shifting their own burdens.

COLLECTING THE INDEMNITY.

(Daily Press, 6th March.)

When a huge indemnity was demanded of China as a consequence of the Boxer troubles the difficulties and danger of collecting the instalments were clearly foreseen by most men possessing any knowledge of China and her ways. That the collection of the periodical payments is becoming a serious menace to peace is constantly being demonstrated, and it behoves the Powers to take note of the reasons. China is required to pay for the first nine years a sum of eighteen million taels annually, and it was agreed between the Foreign Representatives and the Chinese Plenipotentiaries that the import duty on foreign goods should be raised to an effective five per cent.; that imported goods, hitherto duty free, should be included in the effective five per cent. duty; that native custom houses at the treaty ports should be controlled by the Imperial Maritime Customs; and finally that the Government tribute rice should be transported to the north in steamers instead of in native junks. From these sources it was calculated a sum of over seven million taels could be raised towards the annual indemnity payment, thus leaving something under eleven million taels to be collected

from the people. That is a sum which even some of the native papers have declared to be not intolerably burdensome. What makes the word indemnity "ring violently in the ears of everybody in China," as the *Sin Wan Pao* has it, is that the Board of Revenue is insisting on the full sum of eighteen million taels being collected from the provinces. Even worse extortion has to be recorded. "If," laments the *Sin Wan Pao*, "the provincial authorities honestly collected eighteen million taels from the people to meet the annual instalment, it would be all right. But the sum exacted from the poor people under the cover of the word indemnity is several times greater than the amount required to pay the indemnity." It is no therefore surprising to learn that "the whole nation is groaning under the unbearable weight of the innumerable taxes levied on them under the pretence of defraying the foreign indemnity." It is a matter of which the Powers, as we have already said, should take serious notice. At the time the indemnity was demanded there were not wanting those who considered it impolitic to impose any burden at all in this connection on the Yangtze provinces. Why, it was urged, should the people under the Yangtze Viceroys who remained quiet through all that memorable time of stress and anxiety be called upon to pay enormously increased taxes because the northern provinces had been swept into the vortex of rebellion? But the indemnity was demanded from China as a whole, and while this in itself must have produced among the people in the Yangtze provinces a feeling of disappointment and even resentment, the enormous exactions which the provincial authorities are unwarrantably making in the name of the Powers can only have one result throughout the country—an intensification of the hatred of the foreigner. The Yangtze Viceroys have protested in memorials against the Board of Revenue's exaction of seven million taels from the provinces over and above the amount that it is really necessary to levy, but their protests appear to be calmly ignored in Peking.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 2nd ult. in the Council Chamber.

Present:—
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. E. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, K.T. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Commander R. S. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. J. BADELEY (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATFIELD, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. S. SHARP.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. R. SHEWAN.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

MEMBER SWORN IN.

The Hon. F. J. BADELEY took the oath and resumed his seat in the Council.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS.

The Hon. R. G. SHEWAN gave notice of the following questions to be asked at next meeting of the Council:—(1) Will the Colonial Secretary inform the Council when the land settlement in the New Territory was commenced? (2) Will the Colonial Secretary give an explanation of

the delay in settling this matter, about four years having elapsed since the date of the concession?

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute No. 3, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 1), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 1899, and to amend the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance, 1901. The Bill is introduced to further amend the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 1899, and to amend the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance in accordance with suggestions from the Board of Trade and to meet certain requirements arising since the passing of the Ordinance of 1899. It is desirable to bring our legislation as far as possible into line on this subject with Imperial legislation; in fact, it is not only desirable it is absolutely essential. At the present moment there is a Bill before His Majesty the King, which was passed by the Council in 1901, and before that Bill is dealt with finally we have considered it necessary to further legislate in order to amend it, and the Bill before the Council is one to give effect to amendments we consider essential in order to make our local shipping law perfect in the sense of being identical with that of the mother country.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and on re-coming, there having been no material amendments, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE PUNISHMENT OF FLOGGING.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the laws relating to the punishment of flogging. The object is to make the law respecting the punishment of flogging, wherever administered, the same throughout the whole Empire; and to limit the number of strokes which may be awarded by any sentence.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill which, on the Council resuming, was read a third time and passed.

FUGITIVE CRIMINALS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I now beg to make the third motion standing in my name, that for the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the surrender of fugitive criminals from the territory of each of the Malay States—Perak, Selangor, Pahang and Negri Sembilan. The object of the Bill is announced by its title, and is to provide for the surrender to each of the four Federated Malay States of fugitive criminals from those States.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and no amendments having been made, when the Council resumed the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE JURY LIST.

The Council considered privately the revision of the Jury List.

The Council adjourned.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (chairman) presiding.

There was only one item down for consideration, a minute in which the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,550 to meet the cost for the current year of an agency of the Hongkong Post Office established at Chefoo, from 1st January:

Salary for Post Office Agent, 1st

January to 31st December,

1903, at \$100 per mensem,.....\$1,200.00

Incidental expenses.....	\$150.00
Office fittings and one safe.....	200.00
	350.00
Total,.....	\$550.00

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

THE LAST MEETING.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 5th inst. in the Board Chamber. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (president); Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. F. J. BADELEY, Captain Superintendent of Police; Col. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. C. McI. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Mr. Fung Wa Chun; Mr. Lau Chu Pak; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

The business was due to begin as usual at 4.15, but it was about quarter of an hour later when Dr. Atkinson entered the Chamber and took his place at the head of the table. Without taking his seat,

Dr. ATKINSON said—Gentlemen,—Since last we met the new Public Health and Buildings Bill has been passed, and as that Bill repeals the Ordinance under which this Sanitary Board is constituted, I am instructed that until such time as the new members are appointed or elected the Sanitary Board does not exist. I thank you all very much for the assistance you have afforded at our meetings under the old Board, and I regret that you should have called you together thus unnecessarily. This meeting is adjourned.

Mr. OSBORNE—Sir, before we part—

Dr. ATKINSON—There is no meeting.

Mr. OSBORNE—I am not going to talk on public business. As this is Dr. Clark's last attendance at our meetings, whatever it may be to us, prior to his departure for home, I think it would be ungracious if we were to allow the opportunity to pass without recording our thanks to him for the very able and distinguished way in which he has carried out the duties of Medical Officer of Health (hear, hear) during his period in that office. The evils which this Colony suffered from some years ago and which disgraced the Colony have to a large extent disappeared, and apart from plague I think that we have no need to be ashamed of our health statistics. As regards plague, now that we have the nucleus of a staff organised to fight this disease, I think we may fairly hope for ultimate success; and certainly if the intelligence, energy and zeal of Dr. Clark be continued in his successors, I have no doubt the day is not far distant when we shall be practically free and may once more hold our head erect amongst clean communities of the world. This improved sanitary condition of Hongkong is principally due to Dr. Clark, and I believe, sir, I am expressing the feelings of all those whose interests are identified with the place in saying that we deeply appreciate and thank him for his services. He has been a member of this Board for 7 years and although under the new Public Health Ordinance he now ceases to be one it is to be sincerely hoped he may return with renewed vigour to the post which he has filled with such conspicuous credit to himself, with advantage to public interests and with honour to the public service. (Applause)

Dr. ATKINSON—I am sure that everything that has been said by Mr. Osborne has been received with acclamation by those present. We are all aware of the able service that Dr. Clark has rendered and we know how valuable they have been. We only hope he will return to the Colony after his leave, reinvigorated and able to fight anew the battle against disease in this Colony. (Applause)

Dr. CLARK Thank you.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Mr. President, I think the Press should not publish the fact that the Board does not exist. Although the Board does not exist, the members and staff of the Sanitary Board exist.

Dr. ATKINSON—The meeting is adjourned.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. A. R. Lowe, Secretary to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, to the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary:—
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
28th February, 1903.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that in November last the Singapore Chamber of Commerce addressed this Chamber, drawing attention to the steps taken by that Chamber with the object of investigating and considering the possibility of arriving at some method by which the fixing of exchange between gold and silver in Singapore and the Straits Settlements might be solved, and asking for this Chamber's views as to the advisability of taking any action in the same direction with regard to the currency of Hongkong.

At a meeting of the Committee specially called to discuss this matter, held on 23rd December last, it was decided to reply that, although they greatly appreciated the friendly desire for joint action, the Committee regretted that by reason of the very different position occupied by the two Colonies, they were unable to see their way, whilst China still retains a silver currency, to take any steps which might tend to lead the Government to adopt another standard.

Since the expression of opinion by the Committee a requisition from five members was received calling for a special general meeting of the members of the Chamber for the purpose of discussing the question of local currency, and this meeting of members was held on the 18th instant, when the following resolution was carried by a majority:—

"That in the opinion of this Meeting it is desirable the Straits Currency Commission should extend its enquiries to Hongkong with a view to ascertaining whether reform of the Colony's currency arrangements is advisable."

In this connection, I enclose copies of the following papers.

1. Published minutes of committee meeting held 23rd December, 1902.
2. Notice calling special general meeting of members for 18th February, 1903.
3. Published minutes of special general meeting.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE, Secretary.

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, on Tuesday, 17th February, 1903, at 4 o'clock p.m. Present—Hon. C. S. Sharp (chairman), Mr. W. Poate (vice-chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. E. A. Hewett, C. Michelau, N. A. Sieca, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. Chatterton Wilcox, Hon. R. Shewan (*ex officio*) and Mr. A. R. Lowe (secretary).

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 20th ult. were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

The International Banking Corporation and Messrs. Wilkinson, Heywood and Clark, Limited, were elected to membership subject to the usual confirmation at the next annual general meeting.

OFFICIAL CODE VOCABULARY.

The SECRETARY reported that in answer to the Chamber's letter of 5th December last a reply had been received from the London Chamber of Commerce stating that the matter would have consideration, and further communications would follow.

PROPOSED LICENSING OF PILOTS.

The following correspondence was read:—
General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th January, 1903.

SIR,—With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the proposal to license the pilots of this port, I am directed to bring to your notice, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, further arguments in

support of the proposal with the object of inducing the Government to reconsider the decision previously arrived at.

From the copy of the circular letter enclosed herein, addressed by this Chamber to the shipping firms and agencies in this Colony, you will observe that their opinion was sought as to the advisability or otherwise, of bringing the pilots under control.

In answer to this enquiry, Messrs. Bradley & Co., the P. & O. S. N. Co.; Melchers & Co.; the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam Boat Co., Ltd.; Butterfield & Swire; Shewan, Tomes & Co.; Gibb, Livingston & Co.; David Sassoon & Co., Ltd.; the Nippon Yusen Kaisha; Jardine, Matheson & Co.; Pacific Mail Steam Ship Co.; Occidental and Oriental Steam Ship Co.; and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, representing the chief shipping interest in the Colony, replied favouring the licensing of the pilots by an examination board possessing the necessary authority, and the opinion was expressed that as the authorities at other ports throughout the world were able to do this, there should be no difficulty in making similar arrangements in Hongkong. No replies were received antagonistic to the proposal.

His Excellency will remember that the Committee's grounds for making the proposal were that many of the older and more reliable pilots were not now available owing to deaths, old age, or retirement, and their places taken by men of inferior calibre, and that the increasing size of vessels and the more congested state of the Harbour necessarily required more care and knowledge on the part of the pilots than in the past.

The Committee are strongly against the institution of compulsory pilotage, as the Harbour is not a naturally difficult one to navigate, and by reason of their local knowledge a number of the masters of ships running in and out on the coast trade do not require pilots.

It is very obvious that the possession of a certificate of competency cannot but prove advantageous to respectable men and the fees suggested are within the reach of all, so that the only effect would be to weed out the undesirable to make room for better men.

My Committee trust that, in view of the opinions expressed by the shipping community in favour of some control being exercised over the pilots, His Excellency will be pleased to give this matter further consideration.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE, Secretary.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
30th January, 1903.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th instant on the subject of the proposed licensing of the pilots of this port, and to inform you that the Governor has given it his full consideration.

2. With every wish to meet the views of the Chamber of Commerce if possible, His Excellency desires me to inform you that in view of the reasons fully set forth in my letter No. 1,574 of the 16th July last he considers the proposal impracticable. His Excellency regrets therefore that he must adhere to the decision already conveyed to you in my letter No. 2,256 of the 16th October.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce.

The CHAIRMAN said that no further steps could very well be taken locally, and after some discussion it was decided to record the Committee's dissatisfaction with the decision arrived at by the Government.

MERCHANT SHIPPING AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1901.

The following letters were read:—
Southampton, January 7th, 1903.

DEAR SIR,—Your circular letter of the 18th October last on the subject of the Merchant Shipping Regulation now in force at your port with regard to the expenses of shipowners in cases of death or sickness on board has been under the consideration of the Directors at their two last meetings, and I am directed to state that they are in full accord with your efforts to get the Regulation repealed.

They, however, consider that they cannot take

any independent action in the matter, as from enquiries they have made, they do not find that shipowners seemed concerned about it.—Yours faithfully,

PETER MILNE STEWART,
Hon. Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
110, Exchange Buildings,
Liverpool, 10th January, 1903.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 18th on the subject of the Hongkong Quarantine Ordinance Regulations, which has received careful consideration, and I am to enclose for your information copy of letter sent to the Colonial Office requesting the repeal of that part of the Ordinance, which makes shipowners liable for cost and expenses of passengers who have died or been taken ill and removed under the quarantine regulations referred to.—I am, yours faithfully,

THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

(Enclosure.)

The Incorporated Chamber of
Commerce of Liverpool,
Liverpool, 10th January, 1903.

SIR,—

MERCHANT SHIPPING CONSOLIDATION
ORDINANCE 1899, AND AMENDED
ORDINANCE 1901, HONGKONG.

I am directed to inform you that the Council of this Chamber have received a letter from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce complaining of provisions contained in regulation No. 17 of the first named Ordinance, and the regulation No. 16 of the amended Ordinance, whereby shipowners are made liable to the Government for "cost and expenses of passengers who have died, or who have taken ill on board ship, and who have been removed therefrom under the quarantine regulations of the Ordinance on their arrival in Hongkong."

It is stated that the amended Ordinance of 1901 has not yet been confirmed. The Council of this Chamber have carefully considered the matter; and consulted the large shipping associations and steamship lines interested. They are strongly of opinion that the principle involved, viz., of imposing such liabilities on the shipowner in the case of persons not on the ship's articles, is most unfair, and they trust that steps will be immediately taken with a view to the repeal of the regulation in question.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

INCREASED FACILITIES FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON THE WEST RIVER.

The following letter was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
23rd January, 1903.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter of the 20th of October last, I am directed to inform you that His Majesty's Consul-General at Canton had reported that the Chinese authorities have agreed to grant additional facilities for passenger traffic on the West River and that the following places have been opened as ports of call:—Do Sing, Yuet-Ling, Luk To, Luk Pa, How Lik, Kan Kong, Mah Ning and Yang Ki.

2. I am also informed that the steamers *Sainam* and *Nanning* have already commenced calling at these places.—I have, etc.,

F. H. MAY,

Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce.

The CHAIRMAN said this letter was a most satisfactory communication.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The SECRETARY reported that in response to a requisition dated 10th February, signed by Messrs. Edward Osborne, G. W. F. Playfair, J. B. Michel, W. G. Humphreys, and Bradley & Co., a special general meeting of the members had been called for the following day at 2.15 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the question of local currency, and that, in order to comply

with Bye-Law No. V, notice had been given of the following resolution to be proposed by Mr. Edward Osborne:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable the Straits Currency Commission should extend its enquiries to Hongkong with a view to ascertaining whether reform of the Colony's currency arrangements is advisable."

A lengthy discussion ensued as to the exact meaning of the resolution as worded. A "reform in the Colony's currency arrangements" could, it was felt, only mean the adoption of a gold standard with or without China, and the Committee, with the exception of Mr. R. C. Wilcox, agreed that such being the case they could not support it. It was decided, however, to first hear the arguments addressed by those putting forward the proposal before taking the vote of the Committee as a body.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1902.

The SECRETARY submitted draft statements of income and expenditure account for 1902, showing excess of income over expenditure of \$54.85 after writing off defalcations of the late clerk during the year amounting to \$2,595.63, less \$1,250 since recovered. The balance-sheet showed \$4,973.54 to the credit of the "Pinnacle Rock Fund" and \$12,153.01 to the credit of the reserve fund.

The accounts were passed subject to audit, and the CHAIRMAN remarked that had previous years' statements been framed in a similar manner instead of being merely summaries of cash receipts and payments the defalcations of the clerk in recent years would probably have been found out before reaching any great extent.

HONGKONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

We extract the following from the annual report published in the *Government Gazette* of the Inspector of schools, Mr. Edward A. Irving:—

KOWLOON SCHOOL.

The Kowloon School is the outcome of a widespread desire throughout the Colony for a school where children of European nationality should be given the opportunity of being educated apart from Asiatic surroundings. That it has been possible to report such a school in full working order during the last seven months of the year, is due to the liberality and to the broad views of Mr. Ho Tung. Some time previously Mr. Ho Tung had offered to build at Kowloon and to present to the Colony a school where instruction in English should be given to scholars of all nationalities. The building was completed about the time that the Committee on Education made its report. In view of the feeling as to the undesirability of mixed schools alluded to above, and emphasised in that report, it was felt that to open a new mixed school would be courting failure. And it was finally decided to appeal to the goodwill of the donor, asking him to change the conditions of his gift, and to allow the school to be one for the children of Europeans exclusively. This he consented to do upon certain conditions for the improvement of Chinese education on the Kowloon side. I have paid several visits to the school since my return to the Colony, and am satisfied that really good work is being done therein, although the initial difficulties are considerable. Mr. James is fully satisfied with the work done by his staff. I am pleased to be able to report a considerable increase in the attendance for the first month of the new year.

BELILIOS SCHOOL.

The staff of the Belilios School was strengthened considerably in the years 1901 and 1902 by the appointments of Miss Bateman and Miss Chun Yut. In the latter half of 1901 the fees were practically doubled, now averaging about one dollar a month. In 1902 the Kowloon School withdrew a certain number of girls and small children from the Belilios School. It seems clear that the improvement in the teaching does not weigh with parents against the countervailing disadvantage of increased fees, or counter-attractions elsewhere. Of the 90 odd children in attendance at the end of the year, one-third were girls in the Upper School, one-third were girls in the Lower School, and one-third were boys in the

Lower School. Miss Bateman, the Lower School mistress, employs methods in grounding small children which I consider to be most successful, and the Lower School is in a very healthy condition. Turning to the Upper School, I cannot, in the face of such rapidly declining numbers, say as much. The fault certainly lies not in the capacity nor in the industry of the teachers; nor can it be altogether attributable to the raising of fees, since parents would not refuse to pay the same fee in the Upper School which they are willing to pay in the Lower School, if equally satisfied with the education. The fact, I believe to be, that a specialising process is at work in the educational system of the Colony. There seems a natural tendency for schools to aim at providing an education specially suited to the requirements of one or other section of the community. The Kowloon School, the reorganisation of the Diocesan School and Orphanage for Girls, the special classes at Queen's College, the gradual elimination of Chinese from St. Joseph's all point in this direction. If this view is correct, it follows naturally that a school avowedly cosmopolitan will attract few scholars from classes of society for which more particular arrangements are made elsewhere, and will only appeal with certainty to classes which are too small to make their own particular wants a matter of special study. That the Belilios School is actually tending more to provide for this residuum is, I think, not unlikely. And the opinion is strengthened by reference to the roll of the Upper School, which contains the names of Japanese, Indians, Filipinos and Chinese from the Colonies, besides the more normal elements. Meanwhile in the same building there is a Vernacular School for Chinese Girls, totally distinct, and in a flourishing condition under the management of a Chinese staff. The school is about as good as can reasonably be hoped for under purely native management.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Education in the Colony may, for administrative purposes, be arranged under three heads. Under the first is Queen's College, entirely independent of the Education Department. The second includes the grant Schools, which are connected with the Department, but by loose bonds; in consequence of which experience proves that any reform set in motion by the Department takes at least a year to produce its results in the grant Schools. The District Schools, however, like the Kowloon School and the Belilios School, are within the direct control of the Inspector of Schools. It was, therefore, natural that the changes in the educational policy, recommended by the Committee on Education, should produce their first fruits in these schools. The District Schools are the survivors of a contripetal movement, by which in the year 1860 a number of them were brought together to form the Central School, now Queen's College. The rest, scattered beyond the reach of that centre of attraction, have pursued each one its isolated course. One after another they suffered extinction, until at the beginning of 1902 only the following were left: at Wanchai, Saiyingpun, Yau-mat, and Wongneicheong, English Schools; and at Wanchai, Saiyingpun, Tang Lung Chau, Pokfulam, and Shek-O, Chinese Schools.

GRANT SCHOOLS.

The earlier date on which I have been this year required to send in my report has rendered it impossible to give the usual returns and figures for the grant Schools; the material for these, which itself requires careful sifting, not being available till the middle of January. I hope to send them with a short supplementary report in explanation of them shortly.

His Excellency Sir Chen Tung Liang Cheng, K.C.M.G., the new Chinese Minister to the United States, sailed on the s.s. Korea on the 27th ult. for San Francisco. H.F. left the Hongkong Hotel at half-past ten and went off to the liner in Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co.'s launch *Kee-cheung*, accompanied by the Hon. Wei Yuk, Mr. Fung Wa Chun and others. The Minister was escorted to the steamer by dozens of launches and there was a tremendous fusillade of crackers and other fireworks. Over 1,000 people joined in the send-off, which was a hearty one.

THE DEFENCE OF THE EMPIRE.

LECTURE BY CAPTAIN ANDERSON.

Under the auspices of the Odd Volumes Society, Captain G. C. Anderson lectured on the 2nd inst. in the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, on "The Defence of the Empire." H.E. Major-General Sir William J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., presided. The attendance was not large.

H. E. Major-General GASCOIGNE, in introducing the lecturer, said the truest kindness he could do would be not to detain those present by any remarks but simply to ask Captain Anderson to proceed with the lecture he had so kindly volunteered to give. (Applause.)

Captain ANDERSON said the question of Imperial Federation must be settled slowly and surely by responsible statesmen, but his point was not so much the way Imperial defence was to be brought about as to try to induce people to believe that a comprehensive scheme of defence was absolutely necessary for the continued existence of the British Empire, the very first condition of which was that we retain command of the sea. (Applause.) Freedom of sea transport was absolutely essential to our existence. The British Government would not enter upon any scheme of Imperial defence, involving heavy taxation of the people, unless the people themselves demanded such a line of action. Royal commissions and committees of enquiries were simply old-time devices for shelving inconvenient questions, and here in Hongkong we had had lengthened experience of the hope deferred that maketh the heart sick. Hence the necessity for some endeavour on the part of the people to stir up the Government to a due appreciation of the issues at stake. They were told that the common law of England was the Englishman's best birthright. Was not this Empire built up by our race worthy of any sacrifice on the part of its sons to maintain its integrity? Proceeding to deal with the question of Australia and its relations with the mother country, he said it was a commanding present necessity for the youth of Australia to cultivate a maritime spirit which would result in the formation of a naval reserve. (Applause.) Australia could do no better service to the Empire than that, for there was no greater need than a naval reserve. Regarding mobilisation, Captain Anderson proceeded, the performance of Germany in 1870 was looked upon as a wonderful piece of work, for which every credit was due to Count von Moltke, but the concentration of an army on the French frontier was a very simple matter compared with what England would have to do in the case of a naval war. Our inaction in preparing for possible eventualities had earned for us the name of "England the Unready," but the fault in that respect did not lie with the personnel of the Navy, nor would the blame if England ever came to grief. There were plenty of admirals and generals to put the Navy and Army on a satisfactory footing if the politicians would only let them, but the struggle for office and party honours had been so fierce that national needs had been overlooked. The Navy Board should be divorced from Parliament, the First Lord of the Admiralty invested with power and responsibility untrammelled by Treasury control and with power to make his voice heard in the Cabinet when necessary, for on him primarily rested the efficient defence of the Empire. Politicians would say it could not be done but no practical man would believe that. It must be done, and our Navy kept ready to strike like a thunderbolt the moment the necessity arose. (Applause.) This would mean peace—our greatest need. We required a reorganised staff and an intelligence department, more battleships and cruisers to maintain our proportion of strength against the Powers who might combine against us, a council of defence with full power, the establishment of dockyards on the east and north-east coasts of England and Scotland, augmentation of the naval reserve, organisation of a North Sea fleet and the making of the Channel and Mediterranean fleets each a complete unit in itself. There was no reason why we should quarrel with Germany or France, for instance, but we must always be ready for peace or war. In this

connection he was glad to see that the old warships armed with obsolete guns were at last being put out of the service. With respect to Canada the feeling seemed to be that it could best serve the interests of the Empire by raising and maintaining an efficient naval reserve. In conclusion the lecturer said he hoped his remarks would perhaps serve to arouse discussion among the public so that a comprehensive scheme of Imperial defence might be brought about. (Applause.)

Major-General GASCOIGNE having invited discussion,

Commodore ROBINSON said there was no doubt that what Captain Anderson had said about the wants of the Navy was very true, and in the Navy they were very glad to have such enthusiasts to speak for them. Mr. Mahan, the well-known American writer, was responsible in great measure for this welcome agitation. He had shown the United States her deficiencies on the water and when that country started to build up her fleet every other nation followed suit. In the British Navy they had been trying for many years to make the youngsters more mechanical in their training, so as to fit them all the better for present day requirements and to have their future captains more thoroughly mechanical. The Navy League had done an enormous amount of good to the country, and the fact was recognised by those in the Navy, who thoroughly appreciated its efforts to have the fleet placed in a better way. (Applause.)

Professor SHARP, who mentioned with regret that Captain Anderson would soon be leaving Hongkong, said the subject treated of in the lecture was unspeakably important and especially so in the case of Hongkong which would be most sensibly affected by anything like a feeling of insecurity in the Navy. The song had it that "we've got the ships, we've got the men, we've got the money too," but although we had the money and might be able to buy a few ships from a friendly nation in the event of hostilities, there was no question that we had not the men. As a way of supplying this want Professor SHARP concluded by suggesting that the fisher population at home, from which could be drawn the very men that were needed to man the ships, might be placed under bounty as a naval reserve, ready to be called upon in anything like emergency. (Applause.)

H. E. Major-General GASCOIGNE said the only part of the lecture that he personally disagreed with was that Captain Anderson seemed to have a very unfavourable opinion of commissions or committees of enquiry. He thought a grand opportunity was lost at the end of the South African war. He would have liked to have seen a commission established consisting of a few soldiers and business men who between them would have been able to formulate a scheme by which our Army would be supplied. However powerful our ships might be, an army must be behind our backs, and the great matter was where was that army to be got in the future? Let them mark his words: it was to be very few years from now that every man present would have to take some part in the defence of the Empire. It would have to come and such a commission as he had indicated might have been able to show how it would press least hardly. We did not like the word "conscription," but there was no question about it in his mind that they would have to have it. His Excellency concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to Captain Anderson for his most able and interesting lecture, expressing regret that that was the last opportunity they would have of hearing him as he was leaving Hongkong.

The vote of thanks was cordially given.

Captain ANDERSON briefly replied.

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., proposed a vote of thanks to Major-General Gascoigne for presiding, which ended the proceedings.

Reporting the arrival of Mr. J. E. Squire, the new General Manager in Singapore of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., the *Straits Times* mentions that some twenty-nine years ago Mr. Squire filled the post of superintendent at Hongkong and for the past twenty years has occupied a similar position in Sydney.

THE BROUGH COMEDY COMPANY.

"MRS. DANE'S DEFENCE."

Rapid changes are to be the policy of the Brough Company during the remainder of the season. So the management announces. It is a pity that this should apply to *Mrs. Dane's Defence*, the play which was produced on the 28th inst. and was repeated on the 2nd inst., the last time. The work of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones has long been favourably known to the English playgoer. His *Mrs. Dane's Defence* transcends in many ways all his previous efforts. It made a decided hit when produced at Wyndham's and it possesses attributes that make its continued success a surety as far as one can speak of certainty in relation to mundane matters. The reception given it in Hongkong was unmistakably cordial; and it is to be regretted that the public will have only one more opportunity of seeing the play. A famous critic said of *Mrs. Dane's Defence* that it has in it character, passion, satire; that it has all the essential qualities. Any one who has seen it will admit that it is one of the best modern plays which have been written. The story is simple. The development is highly interesting, and there is an intensity of passion about the play that keeps the attention of the spectator in a state of constant alertness. As produced by the Brough Company, *Mrs. Dane's Defence* loses nothing in the acting. One and all did their parts with distinction. There was not one weak spot in the cast. In the character of Sir Daniel Carteret, Mr. Brough had a part to play which eminently suited and displayed his powers. Mrs. Brough, as Mrs. Dane, had a very exacting rôle, calling for the exercise of those high artistic abilities that she possesses; her portrayal of the character was splendid and drew forth admiration from all sides. Mr. Ernest Vere gave a fine study of Lionel Carteret. Miss Susie Vaughan acted with her accustomed cleverness as the scandal-loving Mrs. Bulsom Porter, while Mr. Leslie Victor gave a capital depiction of her henpecked husband. The other parts were all admirably filled, these being Canon Boney (Mr. McIntyre), Mr. James Risbey (Mr. W. T. Lovell), Fendick (Mr. Orlando Daly), Adams (Mr. Percy Walshe), Wilson (Mr. McLean), Jan-t Co'quhoun (Miss Brenda Gibson) and Lady Eastney (Miss Temple). A special word of praise must be given to Mr. Claude Whaites for the success of his scenic effects. Lady Eastney's drawing-room got a hearty round of applause when the curtain rose upon it. This scene was painted in Hongkong since Mr. Whaites came here and was as pretty as it was effective. The dressing of the piece all through was superb.

"THE MAGISTRATE."

A large and very appreciative audience welcomed the appearance of Pinero's popular farce *The Magistrate* by the Brough Company on the 3rd inst. The performance was of additional interest to many as it was a piece the local A.D.C. successfully produced about three years ago, and although it is perhaps unwise to institute comparisons, especially in the case of such an excellent company as the Brough's, yet it showed that our amateurs gave a very creditable interpretation of the play. The plot of the piece we gave in yesterday's issue, and it is generally too well known to need repetition; it is a farce which if well acted one can witness several times with enjoyment. Mr. Brough as Mr. Posket and Mr. Leslie Victor as Cis Farrington provide most of the amusement, and the performance of both was clever. Mr. Victor, who is a very bright young comedian, had more opportunity than usual to display his ability, and he was exceedingly good. Mr. Brough, of course, is the leader, and while from an artistic point of view we admire him more in his portrayal of characters in serious plays, yet in comedy it would be impossible to dispense with him, for he is generally the funniest man in the piece, resulting not so much from his leading rôles as his clever conception of what is expected of him. His performance last night was much enjoyed. He was ably supported by Miss Susie Vaughan as Agatha, whose efforts were much appreciated. Miss Vaughan's parts

are not always the nicest in the sympathy of the audience but her interpretation always shows skill and finish, and her place is as indispensable in the average play as the two leaders. Mrs. Brough had but little to do as Charlotte Verrinder, and Miss Temple, who figured so brightly in the previous piece, relapsed into the Maid. The other parts were all well taken, and the piece was splendidly mounted. The list of characters was as follows:—

Mr. Posket { Magistrates of Mulberry	Mr. Brough
Mr. Bullamy { Street Police Court	Mr. Percy Walshe
Col. Lukyn (from Bengal—Retired)	Mr. W. T. Lovell
Capt. Horace Vale (Shropshire Fusiliers)	Mr. Ernest Vere
Cis Farrington (Mrs. Posket's Son by her First Marriage)	Mr. Leslie Victor
Achille Blonl (Proprietor of the Hotel des Princes)	Mr. M. McLean
Isidore (a Waiter)	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Wormington (Chief Clerk at Mulberry Street)	Mr. Williams
Inspector Messitor { Metropolitan	Mr. Orlando Daly
Sergeant Lugg { Police	Mr. Higson
Constable Harris {	Mr. H. Allison
Wyke (Servant at Mr. Posket's)	Mr. McIntyre
Agatha Posket (late Farrington, nee Verrinder)	Miss Susie Vaughan
Charlotte Verrinder (her Sister)	Mrs. Brough
Beattie Tomlinson (a young lady reduced to teaching music)	Miss Brenda Gibson
Popham	Miss Temple

The second and last performance of *The Magistrate* was attended by an audience that completely filled the Theatre on the 4th inst.

"SOWING THE WIND."

Sydney Grundy's powerful play, *Sowing the Wind*, was revived on the 5th inst. by the Brough's after a lapse of four years, during which time the story has lived with us as one of the best ever told across the footlights of the Theatre Royal. The plot there is no need to outline; it deals simply with a phase of social life no less pronounced to-day than at the time the dramatist had in his mind. "Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind"—it is an old adage often quoted, but it never received better point than from Sydney Grundy's pen. Mr. Brough in the rôle of Mr. Brabazon and Mrs. Brough as Rosamund were the two central figures last night, and every detail of their difficult parts they followed with the faithfulness and excellence expected of them. A true comedian when dealing with the lighter style of plays, Mr. Brough proved himself capable of the best efforts in the more serious department of the actor's profession, and he earned praise that was as heartily extended to Mrs. Brough, whose characterisation of Rosamund was in every respect a finished performance. Mr. Lovell claimed a large share of attention by his impersonation of Ned Annesley, a part that sat naturally upon him and received the best treatment at his hands. Mr. Watkin was cleverly impersonated by Mr. McIntyre, and able interpretations were also put upon the parts of Lord Petworth, and Sir Richard Curstitor respectively by Mr. Baly and Mr. Ernest Vere. Miss Temple as the Hon. Mrs. Fretwell and Miss Brenda Gibson as Maud Fretwell were convincing, whilst Mr. Percy Walshe made an admirable appearance in the part of Mr. Denkin, an attorney-at-law of the conventional type of the period. Minor parts were agreeably rendered by Mr. McLean (Glossop, a butler), Mr. Higson (Webb, a valet), and Miss Helen Bogle (Bridget, a housekeeper). Staged with exquisite taste and played to the best advantage, *Sowing the Wind* deserves to rank with the best successes of the Brough Company.

Sub-Lieutenants V. F. Gibbs and C. C. Dix have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in His Majesty's Fleet for services during the operations in North China in 1900.

The Korean Government has rejected the Russian application for the concession for the Seoul-Wiju Railway. A Tokyo telegram to the *N.C. Daily News* mentions that some of the Japanese journals suggest that the real motive of the application was the desire to forestall a possible similar demand from Japan as compensation for the interdiction on the Japanese banknotes.

THE HONGKONG A.D.C. AT CANTON.

Saturday, the 24th February, was a red-letter day in the annals of the Club Theatre at Shameen; for years and years the Canton A.D.C. have been trying to get the Hongkong A.D.C. to repeat here some Hongkong success, but until now insuperable difficulties have always prevented it. Even this time one of the original caste was unable to come, and but for the cleverness and kindness of the young and charming lady who made her stage debut on this occasion as Ethel Carlton, Shameen would not have had the treat of seeing *His Excellency the Governor* admirably played by the Hongkong A.D.C. The audience on Saturday night testified their thorough appreciation of the play and the admirable manner in which it was done by the heartiest applause and laughter throughout, and at the finish by a tornado of clapping. When the curtain had been lowered for the last time, after being repeatedly raised to quell the storm, the audience burst into three hearty cheers and a "tiger."

The Hongkong A.D.C. rose to a very high pitch of excellence in this performance. Every part was not only adequately filled but well filled, and not one of the parts large or small was weakly taken. The sentry walked his lonely rounds (varied with "I want yer, my honey") to the life. The butler butlered to the manner born. Major Kildare, who brought up the reinforcements, and Captain Rivers, who gave order to fire on them, might have been bred to the profession of arms, so well did they fill their respective parts and look them too. Coming to the main characters of this very well written and amusing farcical comedy or romance, it is seldom one finds a piece where all the characters have so equal an opportunity. The three ladies have each their fair share of the burden of the play and the four men's parts ditto. It is to the great credit of the H.K.A.D.C. that not one of these parts was other than most satisfactorily filled. Stella de Gex (Mrs. Grace) was played as if the boards were the constant avocation of this talented lady; nothing of the amateur was suggested, and all her points were well and deliberately made and the whole part played thoroughly well. Mrs. Wentworth Bolingbroke (Miss Bird), equally successful, admirably made up and, as the smart society lady, exaggeratedly impressed the fact of her elevated atmosphere, apparently quite unconscious that the effort to impress was obvious. It was the thing itself to the life; a very clever bit of study and portrayal giving a tone to the whole play. As for Miss Ethel Carlton (Miss Andrew) "to see her was to love her" from His Excellency downwards. She was frankly charming and played her part with a pretty archness and natural effect quite delightful; it was difficult to believe that this was a first appearance on any stage: warmed by applause, she spoke her lines with full appreciation of each point and scored laugh after laugh from the audience. The match-making scene with Captain Chas. Carew was a most charming bit of acting, and the fact that Miss Andrew took up the part only five days before playing adds to the merit of her performance. In the hands of that veteran and reliable actor, Mr. Grace, His Excellency was sure to be well treated, and so it proved. A solid, reliable (except where the heart was concerned) Governor, a capital character and capably played. The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Carlton, the father of Ethel (he must have had a charming wife) was very well done by Mr. Balloch (another old stager) the precise, head-of-the-department, highly-official manner were all there, and the part was played for all it was worth, which is a good deal. Mr. Bird as the Private Secretary, and Capt. McGeorge as the A.D.C. were both No. 1 and deserved and got high praise for rendering their respective parts; they played up to each other in the most natural manner, and they neither of them had a weak spot so far as their playing was concerned, though their cardiac organs suffered strains almost to breaking point. Their love-making scenes each in his (and the other's) way were very cleverly rendered.

The play was set in a very becoming frame,

the scene being brought from Hongkong and being low the property of the Club Theatre.

The whole performance was a distinct success, and the residents of Shameen are much indebted to the Hongkong A.D.C. and in particular to those members and the ladies who took the trouble to come and give them such an enjoyable performance. I nearly forgot the most important point of all—the frocks and the frills were lovely.—Contributed.

TELEPHONE SERVICE TO KOWLOON.

N W CABLE Laid.

Another step forward in the development of Kowloon has just been made by the laying of a telephone cable for public service from Hongkong to the other side of the Harbour. This has been done by the Telegraph Companies for the use of the China and Japan Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., whose enterprise deserves generous support at the hands of the colonial community. The need for telephone connection between Hongkong and her "suburb" is unquestioned; it has in fact been a crying need for a long time. Now the Telephone Company have surmounted the difficulties that lay in the way and within a few months a subscriber in Hongkong will be able to converse with his friend and fellow-subscriber in Kowloon without recourse to the Star Ferry. The cable which has just been laid is the heaviest ever put down in the neighbourhood. It weighs about eight tons and is of the eight-core kind. As with the other cables which cross the Harbour, it is placed within the protected cable area, 300 yards or so wide, running from North Point (beyond Bayview Hotel) to Hung Hom. Within this strip no vessel is allowed to anchor, it being protected by lights at night and notice-boards during the day. There all cables are laid. At present, it may be interesting to mention, there are three single-wire telephone cables in existence—one belonging to the police, one to the Dock Company connecting with both Hung Hom and Cosmopolitan Docks, and the third to the Godown Company.

The actual laying of the new cable was carried out without a hitch and was accomplished under the superintendence of Mr. W. Stuart Harrison, the manager. The cable was coiled up on board a big junk, and a steam launch provided the locomotive power. When the end of the cable was made fast on shore the junk was towed forward and as she progressed the cable was paid out gradually and in such a manner as to prevent accumulations of "slack." When the other side was reached the remainder of the cable was taken ashore and the end made fast in the cable-house erected for the purpose. The cable is a little over a mile long. Owing to the distance of the cable from the central part of the Colony, it will be necessary for the Telephone Company to construct about five miles of land lines, three on this side and two in Kowloon. On the Kowloon side the exchange will be in the rather oddly shaped building which most people in the Colony must have noticed at one time or another in Cameron Road opposite Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co.'s new dispensary. It should be mentioned that the important operation of testing the new cable has been carried out by Mr. H. Warren of the Telegraph Company with, we understand, satisfactory results.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 28th February.

SHIPPING ENTERPRISE.

An enterprising French firm has ordered two large river steamers to be built which shall be ready to run between Canton and Hongkong between the 8th and 9th Chinese moon this year. These will be provided with the best accommodation for foreign and Chinese passengers, and the steamers *Le Rhone* and *Sun Cheung* will run between Canton and Woohow. Another foreign firm will run a river steamer to be called *Kunyamshan* (the hill of the goddess of mercy). She will be ready in two months and will leave Canton at noon and arrive at Hongkong about dark.

IMPERIAL DECORATIONS.

It is gathered from a reliable source that on the 31st January their Excellencies Acting-Viceroy Tak Sow and the Provincial governor Li Hing Yui sent a telegram to Peking to ask the Emperor to confer medals, one on His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong, one on the British Consul and one on the German Consul in Canton for their meritorious services in assisting to discover and check the rebellion which was attempted on China New Year's Eve. A private Imperial rescript has been received assenting to this proposal, and His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong and the Consuls above mentioned will soon receive the medals.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 27th February.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

The Chinese men-of-war *Kwong Yuk*, *An Lan* and *Fukpo* put in here from Canton. H.I.G.M.S. *Jaguar* arrived here from Amoy, and after a couple of days' stay left for Canton. H.M.S. *Phoenix* is now in port and will shortly return to Hongkong whence she came here.

TROUBLE AT WEICHOW.

Owing to an outbreak of disturbance, similar to the Kwangsi rebellion, at Weichow, a coast port S.W. of Swatow, the Chinese gunboats *Kwong Yuk* and *An Lan* were sent from Canton to carry troops from her to the disturbed place. It is said they took away with them over 600 Chinese braves.

CHANGE OF TAOTAI.

As intimated by me some time back Taotai Ting Po Chwang retired from office owing to the death of his mother. He left for Shanghai per China Merchant's steamer *Hsinfung* yesterday. His successor, Taotai Chin Ping Shih, also arrived here yesterday from Canton on board the Chinese man-of-war *Fukpo*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE CLOUD ON THE HORIZON."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 3rd March.

SIR,—The letter in your issue of the 26th ult. under the heading "The Cloud on the Horizon" affords abundant evidence that the head of "Anti-Humbug" is instinct with a perfect tribe of errors and is virtually a veritable nidus of fallacies in general. If the net result of his contribution be the attainment by him of a clearer insight into the significance of words, a juster appreciation of the value of exact statement, and a truer estimate of the probative force of known evidence, he should feel grateful indeed in view of his specific character. "Anti-Humbug" affirms that Sir Robert Hart applauded the Boxer volunteers. Instead of proving that the accused has committed an atrocious act he simply states by implication that the act of which he accuses the man is atrocious. The accusation is either true or false; if true, where is the evidence? If false, the accusation is infamous. It looks as if "Anti-Humbug" had not yet been dragged up to much effect in the school of life, otherwise he would scarcely strive to hold up a man to public scorn and execration without having not only proved his criminality to the hilt, but without having advanced even a shred of real evidence towards substantiating a charge of such exceptional gravity. He goes on to describe the tone of the first telegram as exultant. Let him give an analysis of the steps by which his mind ascribes that attribute to the tone of the telegram. But were the telegram marked by the characteristics in question, it would be but a slender indication that Sir Robert Hart entertained the hope of being permitted to remain in Peking or of the likelihood of his yielding to the pressure of an invitation to remain. He assumes that Sir Robert Hart wished to remain behind with the object of posing as a mediator; that because he wished to remain he could find means to remain, that this state of mind engendered a feeling of exultation to which reckless expression was given in that first

telegram. Does "Anti-Humbug" insinuate or assume too that it was black Nemesis who bore him in her chariot to the British Legation? where his native manliness and inherent grit earned him a warm tribute of appreciation from his intrepid countrymen. An impartial mind will prefer, in the absence of irrefragable evidence to the contrary, to be guided by the better spirit that pervades unbiased criticism and accept provisionally the supposition that, tinctured by humanity and unmoved by terror, he felt it his bounden duty to take the most effective course available for the security of those for whom he was to a large extent responsible. Further on we read: "Sir Robert Hart, fearing so heinous and unprecedented a crime could not but meet with the punishment it deserved . . . set about doing what he could to persuade the world in general that China's offence should be condoned." Apart from the consideration that this sentiment of fear in the mind of Sir Robert Hart is a naked assumption: if he feared the punishment of China was morally certain, could he be so fatuous as to make a necessarily abortive effort to shield the delinquent from just retribution? In what way was his action inconsistent with the supposition that his motive was to fend off revenge? Besides others competent to speak to the point, a British Field Marshal, possessed of a long and varied experience of Orientals with whom he too had made a mark not likely to be effaced from the pages of English history while the spirit of empire endures in the Anglo-Saxon heart, expressed to the writer on several occasions his deep appreciation of the position which Sir Robert Hart strove to maintain in respect of the treatment of China after the Boxer explosion. Again: "Volunteering being at the time very popular in England he called the Boxers volunteers, thinking that this description of them would meet with approbation." It is, to be sure, a fact that volunteering for the war in South Africa was at the time very popular in England; "Anti-Humbug" has hit a fact; and thereby gives an illustration of the maxim "he that shooteth off, at the last shall hit the mark." This fact, however, does not demonstrate in any wise that Sir Robert Hart called the Boxers volunteers because, forsooth, having lost touch with the West, he thought in his crass ignorance this representation of them would elicit approbation in England. As to winning the support of the non-English world, England was but one and not the most prominent power in China, and the term volunteer with its English associations was accused on the continent of Europe and consequently its employment should have militated against reaching the end in view. It is surely evident that because the volunteer movement was popular in England "Anti-Humbug" imagines Sir Robert Hart must have thought a similar movement in China would meet with approbation in England. What "Anti-Humbug" imagines may or may not be warranted by fact. Where two motives, neither of them perfectly justifiable, may be assigned, the worse has the chance of being preferred; but, pending the production of something more evidentiary of the truth of the allegation than is afforded by leonine grimaces, we shall continue this point after a more charitable and excellent way and take it that Sir Robert Hart fastened on a word most apt to convey to the public mind a notion of the sentiment and heart of the Chinese people. It is a fact Chinese territory had been invaded and was held—whether rightly or wrongly is not germane to the point in question. It is a fact too that hordes of Chinese entered on military service of their own free will to drive out the invader as well as all those who were identified however remotely with the common enemy; whether the means adopted and the course pursued to attain that end were in harmony or at variance with established rules of civilised warfare is likewise not material to the issue. The distinctive mark of a volunteer is the attribute of free will in respect of service. The Boxers had this element of free will to a notable extent and were accordingly termed not inaptly volunteers. There was no chance of gulling the public; the little children in the streets understood that the Boxers wrought

pell-mell havoc like utter savages. Sir Robert Hart simply laid stress on the feature of spontaneity that struck his eye as a dominant characteristic of the movement. Why be driven by a restless and crooked spirit to rake in the dirt of every kind of expedient? It is not quite clear how Sir Robert Hart could plunge right through the mire by throwing himself heart and soul into the cause for the abolition of extra-territoriality. In keeping with "Anti-Humbug's" train of assumptions, would he not be more likely to find himself helplessly soured in the mire up to his eyes? (Or does he mean to imply that the man whom he would clothe in the raiment of an arch-criminal was bereft of reason? Nearly a quarter of a century ago the writer had occasion to refer to Wharton's *Conflict of Laws* in which he came across and glanced at a long extract from a paper contributed years previously by Sir Robert Hart in his rôle of strenuous advocate for the abolition of extra-territoriality. Seeing the man had entered the quagmire and argued for extra-territoriality the best part of half a century ago, does "Anti-Humbug" mean to imply that if there is any sequence in phenomena and any law of causation, the order in his imagination is not that of cause and effect? Is he proceeding on a tacit assumption that the same order must obtain among objects which obtain among his ideas of them, that if one thing makes us think of another as preceding or following it that other must precede in actual fact?

"A friend exaggerates a man's virtues; an enemy, his crimes." To eliminate the possibility of any misconception on this score let it be averred that as we do not charge him with any crimes so we do not propose to array him in immaculate robes woven on the golden loom of all the virtues. It may be there is no reason to consider him any better or any worse than the average man of intelligence of his day—sometimes right, sometimes wrong. Perhaps it would be better to give critics of the type of "Anti-Humbug" the short answer once given by the Dey of Algiers, "My friend, do not you know that my subjects are a band of robbers, and that I am their captain."—Yours, etc.,

HUMBUG.

THE POST OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th March.

SIR,—I was greatly pleased to see in a paragraph in your issue of Monday so high, but so eminently deserved, a tribute to the efficiency and unfailing courtesy of Mr. Lewis, our late acting postmaster, who left our shores yesterday.

While most cordially welcoming his successor, on whose shoulders we doubt not the mantle of his predecessor's urbanity will be found to have fallen, and wishing him a prosperous career in the Far East, it is simple justice to Mr. Lewis that the public sense of his personal worth and official efficiency should find such clear expression as you have given it.—Yours, etc.,

A FREQUENT CALLER
AT THE P. O.

A DANGER AND A NUISANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th March.

SIR,—It would be interesting to know who allows contractors to convert the main streets of this Colony into a stone quarry, which apart from the great danger caused to passing pedestrians is an intolerable nuisance by reason of the noise which goes on all day long, making work in the office burdensome and thought almost an impossibility.

Government Departments are in splendid isolation and tranquility.—Yours, etc.,

NERVOUS.

COOLIES AND THE PUBLIC GARDENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th March.

SIR,—This colony has now a considerable population of European children, but there is absolutely no place where they can obtain fresh air and exercise and be certain of not meeting with the ubiquitous coolie.

The Public Gardens would afford an excellent playground for the little ones; were it reasonably safe to send them there attended only by nurses or older children, but unfortunately the Gardens are infested by filthy and very small Chinese, who do not appreciate the quiet and beauty of the place, who leave the animals confined there, and generally dole the paths and seats. They crowd round European children and indulge in objectionable remarks and those children who are in charge of amahs are frequently subjected to the unwelcome attentions of the amahs' Chinese male acquaintances.

The Gardens should be reserved for Europeans, and all Chinese rigidly excluded, except amahs actually in charge of children, and if this does not commend itself to the authorities, then the place should be properly policed.—Yours, &c.,

DECENCY AND ORDER.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

The 34th ordinary annual meeting of this Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Pedder's Street, on the 2nd inst. The Hon. C. W. Dickson (chairman) presided, the others present being Sir O. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Messrs. J. H. Lewis, A. J. Raymond, F. Maitland (directors), E. C. Wilcox, J. R. Michael, W. E. Clarke, W. Parlane, G. C. Anderson, T. Arnold, G. L. Tomlin, K. McK. Ross, S. J. Michael, A. G. Morris, J. J. Leiria, J. Goemann, J. A. Chinoy, P. Texter, Ho Fook, and E. C. Emmett (secretary).

The notice calling the the meeting having been read by the SECRETARY,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, The report and statement of accounts now submitted I propose, if you will permit me, to take as read. It is matter of regret to the general managers and the consulting committee that the promise of a year ago in respect to the 1901 accounts has not been realised, but unfortunately heavy losses were subsequently sustained notably in this Colony, Amoy and Colombo; the total claims paid amounting since the commencement of 1902 to no less than \$185,000. We have not been alone in this unfortunate experience, but this does not lessen our disappointment. The net result is a balance available for division of \$199,315.46, and I trust that the appropriation of this sum, in the manner suggested in the report will commend itself to you. The addition of approximately 10 per cent. of the year's profits to reserve will increase that fund to \$1,154,891.96, a substantial amount it is true but one which you will I am sure agree with me it is desirable to take every opportunity of adding to. Turning to the 1902 account you will observe that the balance at credit on 31st December last was \$299,299.15 or about \$340 0 less than the 1901 account at a corresponding period, but I should explain that the former has been already charged with its proportion of the serious losses which I have already referred to as having fallen partly upon 1901, and although further losses have been sustained during the current year I may be allowed to express the hope that we may be fortunate enough not to have a repetition of our last year's experience and that the final result of the account may allow of a larger dividend than it is now proposed to pay. I should add that the customary valuation of properties mortgaged to the Company have been made and that in every case there is ample margin on the sums advanced. You are aware that fire insurance rates in Hongkong have recently been increased by 25 per cent. This has been done under instructions issued by the Fire Officers' Committee, London (to which our Company is affiliated) upon the grounds that the water supply of the Colony is inadequate and, and the fire extinguishing appliances insufficient. I do not myself consider that such an increase applied indiscriminately is called for by existing local conditions, and representations which have been made will, it is to be hoped induce reconsideration of the question. Already a considerable amount of business has been lost owing to the increase, many large property owners preferring to carry risks themselves rather than pay the higher rates demanded, and it seems serious

that arbitrary action which leads to such a result cannot be beneficial to fire insurance companies in the long run. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer such questions regarding them as any shareholder may desire to put.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. ARNO, D., the report and accounts as submitted were adopted and passed.

Mr. TOMLIN then proposed that the appointment as director of Mr. Lewis be confirmed, and that the present directors, Sir C. P. Chater and Messrs. Maitland, Raymond, and Lewis, be re-elected.

Mr. MORRIS seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. ROSS proposed and Mr. HO FOOK seconded that Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and W. H. Potts be re-elected auditors.

The proposition was put to the meeting and carried without opposition.

This was all the business.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LD.

The 34th ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held on the 5th inst. at the offices, 3, Queen's Road Central. Hon. R. Shewan (chairman) presided, and the others present were—Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. M. Moses, E. Goetz, G. Balloch, C. Michelau, A. G. Wood (directors), Geo. L. Tomlin (secretary), A. H. M. Da Silva, T. H. Reid, S. G. Newall, Chan Pat, E. C. Emmett, W. H. T. Davis, R. C. Wilcox, J. J. Leiria, and C. Pemberton.

The notice calling the meeting having been read by the SECRETARY,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the directors' report and statement of the Company's accounts for the past year having been in your hands for some time, I will, subject to your approval, now adopt the usual course and take them as read. It is a matter of regret to the Board that the year 1901 turned out so badly after the promising balance of \$237,319.21 carried forward at the end of that year, but it was our misfortune to have to meet claims to the extent of \$130,094.95 on our unexpired risks during 1902, and so the year has only resulted in a profit of \$101,567.87. To this it is proposed to transfer the sum of \$18,581.13 from the extra reserve fund, which will then enable us to recommend a dividend of \$6 per share, or \$120,000, and \$149 as bonus to contributors of premia. The wisdom of establishing an extra reserve fund has for the second time been amply demonstrated, for without it shareholders would have suffered in their dividends for the years 1898 and 1901, which by the existence of the said fund has been happily avoided, and at the same time it still stands at the respectable figure of \$72,760.42. The loss ratio for 1901 works out at 79.56 per cent. which has been rarely exceeded in the Company's history. Turning to the working account of 1902, we have carried forward the sum of \$262,897.67 towards our liability on that year's policies. This balance is the largest but one that has ever been carried forward, it having only been exceeded in 1896, which turned out a record year for the Company. Both premium and interest accounts show satisfactory increases and are now larger than they have ever been before, and at the same time I am happy to inform you that in respect to the former we have not gone out of our way to accept business merely for the sake of income, and in regard to interest account we are assured by our surveyors that the properties under mortgage, without exception, if realised at the present time would fetch the amounts at which they have been valued. In conclusion I would mention that our claims since the 31st December last amount to \$13,086, of which the sum of \$12,720 falls on the 1902 account. I will now move "that the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1902 as presented be adopted." After this has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put relating to business before the meeting.

Mr. WILCOX—I have great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report

accounts. I am sure we are all very sorry to hear that the Company has been the victim of misfortune this year, but we all hope it will not be continued and that we shall be able to place to reserve for the equalisation of dividends next year the amount that has been taken from it. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The meeting confirmed the appointments as directors of Messrs. Balloch, Michelau, and Wood, the necessary motion being made by Mr. REID and seconded by Mr. DAVIS.

On the proposition of Mr. EMMETT, seconded by Mr. NEWALL, Messrs. Siebs and Goetz were re-elected directors.

The last item of business was the election of auditors, and on the motion of Mr. LEIRIA, whose proposal was seconded by Mr. DA SILVA, Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe were re-elected.

This was all the business. Dividend warrants were posted on the afternoon of the 5th March.

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LD.

The following is the report of the directors of the above Company to be submitted at the fourteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held at the Hongkong Hotel on Monday next:—

The directors have now to submit to the shareholders a statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1902.

The net profit for the year amounts to \$25,170.35, to which has to be added \$11,576.33 brought forward from last year's account. After payment of directors and auditor, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 15 per cent., or \$22,500 to shareholders, to transfer to reserve fund \$5,000, and to carry forward \$8,096.63 to next year's account.

During the earlier months of the year we were not fully employed; trade, however, improved as the year advanced, and although we had no very large contracts we put through a fair amount of general work.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. Rodger, according to the articles, retires, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

W. PARLANE, Chairman.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS		
For the 12 months ending 31st December, 1902.		
ASSETS.		\$ c.
Value of land and buildings, as per last report	70,000.00	
Cost of new roof	822.45	
Amount written off	822.45	
	70,000.00	
Value of machinery, plant, launches and office furniture, as per last report	39,223.01	
Added during the year	11,721.41	
Amount depreciated	5,174.41	
	45,770.00	
Value of stock in trade	84,547.64	
Value of work in progress	23,502.72	
Cash with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	8,946.29	
Cash on fixed deposit in Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	10,270.68	
Cash with the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	1,050.32	
Cash on hand	850.67	
Cost of 1 Union Insurance Society of Canton share	245.00	
Sundry debtors	19,652.55	
	\$264,835.87	
LIABILITIES		\$ c.
Capital invested on 6,000 shares at \$25 each, fully paid up	150,000.00	
Reserve fund	60,000.00	
Amount received in advance on account of contracts in hand	9,000.00	
Bills payable	3,687.14	
Sundry creditors	5,402.05	
Balance of profit and loss account	36,746.68	
	\$264,835.87	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To cost of labour, material and working expenses	\$7,689.62
To salaries	14,070.83
To insurance	592.00
To Crown rent and taxes	1,166.72
To depreciation	5,996.83
To balance brought forward from 1901	\$11,576.33
To net profit 1902	25,170.35
	\$36,746.68
Appropriated as under:—	
Dividend of 15 per cent. on \$150,000.00	\$22,500.00
Directors' fees	1,000.00
Auditor's fee	150.00
Carried to reserve fund	5,000.00
Balance to new account	8,096.68
	\$36,746.68
	\$146,262.71
By balance of last year's account	\$11,576.33
By gross earning	134,042.57
By transfer fees	21.00
By bonus from Insurance Co	23.08
By dividend	30.00
By interest	567.73
	\$146,262.71

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary annual meeting, to be held at the Company's Office, No. 2, Cannan Road, at noon, on Thursday, 12th March:—

The directors have now to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1902.

ACCOUNTS.

The gross revenue derived from wharfage, landing, &c., amounted to \$823,310.13 as against \$809,823.30 the previous year, showing an increase of \$13,486.83, and the profit on working was \$270,140.85 as compared with \$242,759.02 in 1901, being an increase of \$27,381.83.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account, after paying interim dividend of 4 per cent. and including \$12,402.74 brought forward from last year, is \$154,427.37 which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and auditors' fees	\$10,500.00
Final dividend of 5 per cent.	75,000.00
Transfer to depreciation and repairs account	30,000.00
Write off wharves	1,158.00
Write off launches	4,000.00
Write off lighters	10,363.99
Write off railways and rolling stock	6,071.48
Write off machinery and plant	2,852.12
Carry forward to new account	14,481.89
	\$154,427.37

Business.—The dullness of import trade alluded to in last report continued throughout 1902, and stocks for some time past have been maintained at a very low level.

Buildings.—The 22 Chinese houses referred to in last report were completed in June, and a contract has been signed for adding an upper floor to No. 2 godown.

Wharves.—A small wooden wharf was built opposite K. M. L. 9 for coaling launches.

Machinery and Plant.—A first class fire engine (Shand and Mason) was purchased; also six crab winches for stacking timber.

Lighters.—Five small Kum-sing boats have been added to the fleet of lighters, which now comprises 4 docketed, 10 open boats of European type, 26 open boats of Chinese type, and 6 Kum-sing boats.

DIRECTORS.

The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. A. Haupt and the Hon. C. S. Sharp having resigned, their places were taken respectively by the Hon. C. W. Dickson, Mr. M. Michelau and Mr. A. G. Wood. These appointments require confirmation.

Mr. E. Goetz and Mr. H. Schubart retire in rotation, according to the articles of association, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin
have audited the accounts now presented and
offer themselves for re-election.

C. W. DICKSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1902.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
To capital (30,000 shares at \$50 fully paid up)		1,500,000.00	
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	422,569.08		
To debentures outstanding	500,000.00		
To Land Investment Co.—mortgage	250,000.00		
To reserve fund	250,000.00		
To depreciation and repairs account	51,448.72		
To unclaimed dividends	5,503.50		
To sundry creditors:—			
Directors' and auditors' fees \$10,500.00			
Final dividend	75,000.00		
Accounts payable	191,526.05		
		277,026.05	
To profit and loss account, balance		14,481.69	
		\$3,271,029.04	

Cr.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
By value of land and buildings at Kowloon as per last account	2,326,912.63		
By since expended on levelling land and on new buildings	127,461.87		
		2,454,374.50	
By value of wharves at Kowloon as per last account	100,000.00		
Since expended on new wharf	1,158.09		
	101,158.09		
Less written off	1,158.09		
		100,000.00	
By value of railway and rolling stock at Kowloon as per last account	65,000.00		
Since expended on new rails, &c.	11,071.48		
	76,071.48		
Less written off	6,071.48		
		70,000.00	
By value of launches as per last account	37,000.00		
Less written off	4,000.00		
		33,000.00	
By value of lighters as per last account	108,000.00		
Since expended on 5 new Kum-sing boats	2,363.99		
	110,363.99		
Less written off	10,363.99		
		100,000.00	
By value of land at West Point (39,062½ sq. feet at \$4) as per last account	156,250.00		
By value of buildings at West Point as per last account	106,893.88		
By value of sheer legs as per last account	3,000.00		
By value of machinery and plant as per last account	50,000.00		
Since expended on new machinery and fire engine	12,852.12		
	62,852.12		
Less written off	2,852.12		
		60,000.00	
By sundry debtors	96,029.18		
By Hongkong Bank (unclaimed dividends)	5,543.50		
By cash on hand	932.13		
By value of coal on hand	6,934.90		
By value of timber, iron and stores on hand	78,050.95		
	\$3,271,029.04		

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To wages of permanent staff	229,569.05	
To Crown rent	11,786.02	
To taxes	17,926.38	
To charges (office and telephone rent, stationery and printing, commission, sundries, &c.)	26,168.11	
To legal expenses	571.00	
To fire insurance	5,861.86	
To claims on cargo	874.52	
To expenses on cargo & coal, coolie hire, &c.	230,052.65	
To expenses of launches	16,385.47	
To expenses of lighters	13,074.22	
To balance to profit and loss account	270,140.85	
	\$823,310.13	

Cr.	\$	c.
By wharfage, storing, &c.	823,310.13	
	\$823,310.13	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To interest	68,370.72	
To interim dividend	60,000.00	
To balance appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' and auditors' fees \$10,500.00		
Final dividend	75,000.00	

Brought forward	\$	c.
Transfer to depreciation and repairs account	85,506.06	128,376.72
Amount written off:—		
Wharves	1,158.09	
Launches	4,990.99	
Lighters	10,363.99	
Railways and rolling stock	6,071.48	
Machinery and plant	2,852.12	
Amount carried to new account	14,481.69	
	154,427.37	

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from last account	12,402.74	
By transfer from working account 1902	270,140.85	
By unclaimed dividends forfeited	77.50	
By transfer fees	177.00	
	\$282,798.00	

DEPRECIATION AND REPAIRS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To repairs, renewals and improvements during 1902	36,277.02	
To balance	51,448.72	
	\$87,725.74	

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from last account	57,725.74	
By transfer from profit and loss account	30,000.00	
	\$87,725.74	

RESERVE FUND.

Dr.	\$	c.
To balance	250,000.00	
Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from last account	250,000.00	

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, on Tuesday, 17th March, is as follows:—

The general agents beg to submit their report for the year 1902, with a statement of accounts to 31st December last.

For reasons mentioned in the last report it has been impracticable to work the refinery at Malabon, during any portion of the year 1902, and the general agents regret that there is still no prospect of being able to do so. Meanwhile current expenses are being kept as low as possible, consistent with proper care of the machinery and buildings.

Inclusive of \$59,675.81 brought forward from the year 1901, the balance at debit is \$62,363.31, which is carried forward to next account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

This consists of Hon. C. S. Sharp and Mr. J. H. Lewis, and the latter offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 26th January, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

31st December, 1902.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital account	700,000.00	
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s current account	27,223.86	
Sundry creditors	1,948.55	
	\$729,172.41	

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Property account	629,642.43	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	1,436.48	
Cash	71.01	
Coal, charcoal, stores, &c.	35,408.93	
Sundry debtors	250.25	
	\$666,809.10	

Profit and loss account	62,363.31	
	\$729,172.41	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

\$	c.
To balance from last year	59,675.81
To salaries, wages, fire insurance, &c.	9,874.40
To interest	1,777.35
To auditor's fee	50.00
	\$62,377.56

\$	c.
By gain in exchange	14.25
By balance	62,363.31
	\$62,377.56

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-fifth annual general meeting to be held at the offices of the general agents, on Tuesday, 17th March, states:—

The general agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the Company's business for the year 1902, with a statement of accounts to 31st December last.

The enormous over-production of beet sugar during the season of 1901 so disturbed the balance of supply and demand all over the world that during the greater part of the year under review consuming markets were everywhere stocked with bounty-fed sugar far in excess of requirements, and prices were consequently for a long period much below cost of production.

Under these circumstances profitable working by this Company was impossible, and the business of the year unfortunately resulted in the substantial loss shown by the annexed accounts.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Hon. C. S. Sharp having resigned because of his approaching departure from the Colony, Mr. A. G. Wood has accepted the vacant seat, and his appointment requires confirmation. The Committee now consists of Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and Messrs. D. M. Moses, R. C. Wilcox, and A. G. Wood, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thomas Arnold and W. Hutton Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd February, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET

One year—to 31st December, 1902.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	\$2,000,000.00
Sundry creditors	2,905,659.95
	\$4,905,659.95

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Property account, consisting of—		
East Point Refinery		
Bowrington Refinery		
Swatow Refinery		
Hongkong Distillery		
Site at Soo-kun-poo		
	1,539,194.35	
Cash	1,842.84	
Raw and refined sugar, &c.	1,104,591.57	
Spirits and rum, &c.	4,919.05	
Charcoal, coal, stores, &c.	3,144,476.35	
Sundry debtors	118,179.65	
Shipments	\$1,846,022.54	
Less advances	481,719.39	
	1,364,303.15	

Balance of profit and loss account	\$4,667,426.96
	438,232.99
	\$1,905,859.95

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

\$	c.
To balance at debit on 31st Dec., 1901	1,522,496.05
To new machinery, &c.	16,698.80
	\$1,539,194.35

By balance at date	\$1,539,194.35
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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

\$	c.
To commission	20,154.76
To remuneration to consulting committee	2,500.00
To auditors' fees	750.00
To interest	148,051.48
To loss on working	445,274.92
	\$616,738.16

\$	c.
By balance of profit and loss account, brought forward from last year	18,500.17
By equalisation of dividend fund transferred 180,000.00	
By balance	438,232.99
	\$616,738.16

It is intimated in the *Government Gazette* that Dr. Francis Hall-Wright has been put upon the register of medical and surgical practitioners qualified to practise in the Colony. Dr. Hall-Wright is a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and a licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 27th February.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND COMMANDER BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (ASSESSOR).

STEAMER v. JUNK.

Evidence was continued in the case in which the steamer *Eclair* sued licensed cargo-junk No. 711 for damages arising out of a collision on 5th November, 1902, in Capsuimun Pass.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. Paget Hett of Messrs. Mounsey & Brutton, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor), for the defendant.

His Lordship in delivering judgment said the facts were undisputed that a collision occurred between the junk and the steamer near the entrance to Capsuimun Pass. It was equally clear that in the ordinary course of things it was the duty of a steamer to keep out of the way of a sailing-ship. In order to facilitate the performance of that duty on the part of a steamer, the Merchant Shipping Act provided that every junk when it is under way shall have displayed a white light clearly visible all round at a height of not less than ten feet from the water. It need hardly be said that on a dark night if a junk went sailing along without any light it was almost impossible for steamers to perform the duty thrown upon them in the first place of keeping out of the way of sailing-ships. They could not always keep out of the way of a thing which was not seen within a reasonable distance or until almost the moment of collision. Calculating from the joint speeds at which the steamer and the junk were travelling, the evidence of the *Eclair* people was that they did not see the junk until something like 25 or 30 seconds before the collision. On the other hand the junk people said they saw the steamer's white and red lights about 1,600 yards off but did not see the hull of the steamer until 400 yards off. If the junk people saw the lights of the steamer they knew the precise spot to look for her hull. The question resolved itself into this: was there or was there not a light on the junk? Of six witnesses from the steamer, four stated definitely that there was no light on the junk, and their evidence was partially corroborated by the other two, who, however, were not looking out before the collision. Three people from the junk stated that there was a light on the junk. One of these was the seaman who looked after the lights; he said that he hoisted it himself and that two people told him to hoist it that night. His Lordship was inclined to think that this last statement was an afterthought and an exaggeration, and that this man was not speaking truly. As a jury, his Lordship said, he would be inclined on the whole to find in favour of the steamer, for he could not help thinking that, if there had been a proper light on the junk, the people on the steamer would have seen it earlier than they did. His assessor and himself found that there was no light on the junk. Now, this case was differentiated from other cases by an extraordinary state of things. When the steamer went after the junk and picked her up, the people on board the steamer did what they had not the slightest right to do and what laid them open to a very heavy penalty under the Shipping Act. Their whole conduct was extremely bully-ragging and improper. They had a perfect right to lay by the junk, to shadow her, and then to take any action they might think proper when they got back to Hongkong. But instead of that the steamer people went on board the junk and tied her up to the steamer and towed her to Hongkong. The towing was not so bad, as, although the junk people objected to it at first, there was latterly a sort of consent on the part of the junk people. But the steamer people had no right to go on board whatever. Then there came an extraordinary passage in the case which he thought was unique in his experience. The junk people positively said that when the steamer people came on

the junk one of them, a man in authority, said, "Pull down the lighted lamp from the masthead and we will say that they had no light." Two witnesses said they heard this said. He was bound to say that he did not believe the story, for it would be such an awful criminal act that he could not convict a man at all on such evidence. It seemed to him grossly improbable. It was just possible that a wicked man might pull down the lamp under such circumstances but he would be an arrant fool as well as a scoundrel were he to proclaim it before the crew and the numerous passengers on both vessels. His assessor and himself agreed, each acting as a separate and independent jurymen, that there was no light on the junk. He was going to mark his sense of the wrongful action of the steamer's people in going on board the junk and doing what they did by disallowing them their costs. They went on board the junk and forcibly took away with them a lamp, the identification of which had caused an immense amount of trouble. The result of his decision was that he found for the plaintiffs, that the collision was occasioned by the fault of the junk and not by the fault of the *Eclair*, the fault being that the junk had not any proper light up, and he did not think the steamer could be held liable as being able to avoid collision after she saw the junk; but he did not give the plaintiff any costs because he considered that the conduct of those on board the *Eclair* in taking that lamp away and generally their conduct in going on board the junk and doing what they did do was grossly improper and had very much complicated the case; in order to show his disapproval of it he disallowed them their costs. There would be the usual enquiry as to damages.

The Court rose.

Monday 2nd March.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND LIEUT. HENRY PYBUS, R.N.B., COMR. "EMPRESS OF JAPAN."

WONG KAM v. S.S. "HANSA."

This was an action for damages arising out of a collision at the end of Capsuimun Pass on 14th January between the junk *Yee Fung* and the German s.s. *Hansa*, on which occasion the junk sank.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beairs of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors), appeared for the defendant.

The plaintiff stated in his petition that shortly before 8 p.m. on the 14th January the junk *Yee Fung*, of which he was the owner, whilst on a voyage from Canton to Hongkong, emerged from the Hongkong end of Capsuimun Pass. The wind was north-westerly and light. It was a moonlight night with clouds over the moon, and it was clear on the water. The tide was about three quarters flood and was running up at the rate of about three-miles an hour. The *Yee Fung* was sailing under two of her three sails which were spread out on opposite sides of her, and she was heading S.E. and at such a pace as only enabled her to make very little headway against the tide. A proper white light was carried at her foremasthead, and a good look-out was being kept. At that time the look-out on-board the *Yee Fung* observed about three miles off, on the port bow, the three lights of a vessel which afterwards proved to be the *Hansa*. The *Yee Fung* continued on her course, going very slowly ahead against the tide. The *Hansa* which was steering for the Capsuimun Pass shut in her green light as she drew near the *Yee Fung*, leaving her masthead light and her red side-light visible to those on board the *Yee Fung*. When the *Hansa* was quite close to the *Yee Fung* approaching her in such a position and on such a course that the *Hansa* and the *Yee Fung* would have passed safely port side to port side, those in charge of the *Hansa* suddenly called out to the *Yee Fung* "Hoitan," meaning "Alter your head," and starboarded the helm of the *Hansa* and in con-

sequence of such starboarding and immediately after it the *Hansa* ran against and with her stem struck the port side of the *Yee Fung*, a little abaft of her midships, and did the *Yee Fung* so much damage that she soon afterwards sank, and was lost with her cargo and contents. Plaintiff alleged that there was no proper look-out kept on board the *Hansa*, that the *Hansa* improperly neglected to keep out of the way of the *Yee Fung*, improperly starboarded her helm when quite close to the *Yee Fung*, and thereby caused the collision, for which damages were claimed.

Defendants stated in their answer to the petition that the *Hansa* left her anchorage in Hongkong Harbour on the evening of the 14th January on her voyage to Canton. After leaving the Harbour she was steered by the land towards Capsuimun Pass on a course about N.W. by W. half W. at a speed of about eight miles an hour. Her regulation lights were duly exhibited and a good look-out was being kept on board. When to the south of Chung Hui Island the light of the junk was first seen by the *Hansa* about two and a half miles off and a half point on the starboard bow of the *Hansa*. The *Hansa* was kept on her course, always keeping the light on her starboard bow, and soon it was seen that the light was the masthead light of a junk sailing free on the port tack. When the junk was about half a mile off the *Hansa* starboarded to pass clear of the junk, starboard to starboard, but when the *Hansa* was three lengths or thereabouts distant, the junk suddenly bore away on a course crossing that of the steamer. Her helm was put hard aport and her engines were put full-speed astern, but the ships came into collision. The *Hansa* alleged against the junk that she was not kept on her course, that she improperly attempted to cross the bow of the *Hansa* when so near that there was a risk of collision and that a sufficient look-out was not kept on board the junk; the collision was not caused or contributed to by the defendants or by any of those on board the *Hansa*.

The case having been opened by Mr. Pollock, evidence was taken.

The Court afterwards rose.

Tuesday, 3rd March.

Evidence was concluded in the case in which Wong Kam, owner of the junk *Yee Fung*, claimed damages against the German steamer *Hansa* in respect of a collision which occurred near the Hongkong entrance to the Capsuimun Pass on 14th January.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors), was for the defence.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, ordering the usual enquiry to be made. The Court rose.

Thursday, 5th March.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

YEUNG NOI ON'S ESTATE.

Two applications were made in re the estate of Yeung Noi On, late of Thomas's Grill Rooms etc. One application was for adjudication and was granted in terms. The second was for the appointment of four Chinese trustees; Mr. G. K. H. Brutton, solicitor, appeared in support of this.

His Lordship refused the application for the appointment of the Chinese trustees, without costs, and appointed as trustee on the estate the Official Receiver.

The Court adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WILSON (PUIEN JUDGE).

DISPUTE ABOUT A TOMB.

Leung Sai, described as a single woman, living

at 17, Hollywood Road, obtained judgment on 13th February against Ho Wong, owner of the Tung Tak Li junk, No. 405, for \$515 principal and interest on money lent. After judgment was given in her favour Leung Shi issued a writ of execution and seized the junk. Subsequently the Ho Tung Hop issued an interpleader summons claiming the junk to be theirs. Mr. John Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors, appeared for the claimant, and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro solicitor, for the execution creditor.

Ho Shek Tai, master of the Ho Tung Hop, stated in evidence that the junk was bought by his mother. He produced two Chinese documents relating to the sale of the junk and said that the Ho Tung Hop had existed for over 40 years and that the money with which his mother bought the junk belonged to the estate of his father, but that no lease of administration had been taken out to his father's estate.

His Lordship, in these circumstances, adjourned the case till to day to allow Mr. Hays to reconsider his position.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

A BELLATED NOTICE.

Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C. (instructed by Mr. Paget Hett of Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton, solicitors), appeared in support of a motion for leave to appeal against a decision of Mr. Justice Wise on Thursday of last week in the case Chin Tat Tsun v. Yau Sui Chi, in which plaintiff claimed \$236 for damages done to his house at 210, Queen's Road Central by the collapse of the wall of the defendant's house; judgment having been given for the defendant.

The Chief Justice said he would like to call attention, before the case was proceeded with, to the fact that it was extremely inconvenient that the first notice the Judges should get that they were desired to sit as a Full Court should be, so far as he was concerned, about one o'clock. It might be that there was difficulty in getting the necessary papers ready but there was no difficulty in applying for the Court to be constituted some days beforehand and not on the last day on which the motion could be heard. It so happened that Mr. Justice Wise and himself were able at that very short notice to constitute the Full Court but he would like to point out that in future if they could not grant a Court on that day there would be no extension of time unless proper notice was given, because if a man knew on Monday or Tuesday that he was going to appeal on Thursday it was quite possible for him to go to the Registrar of the Court and ask that there should be a Court on Thursday or as the Judges might arrange to hold it.

The Puisse Judge remarked that he did not see why they should not have got notice sooner.

Mr. Pollock said he understood that a certain party was in the country and that that was the reason for the delay.

The Puisse Judge stated that before he ever gave his decision in the case the plaintiff announced his intention of appealing. That gave them plenty of time to make their application; it was eight days ago. He did not see that Mr. Pollock's client had any excuse at all.

Mr. Pollock expressed regret that their Lordships should have been put to this inconvenience.

The Chief Justice made an entry in his notes to the effect that in future if the required notice was not given in reasonable time, unless under very exceptional circumstances, the person desiring to appeal would have only himself to blame if he was out of time.

Mr. Pollock was proceeding to state the facts of the case, when

The Puisse Judge (interposing) said that he had not got a copy of the pleadings or anything else. It had been laid down over and over again that copies of these documents must be supplied to the Judges. The motion was absolutely incorrect. This thing was getting worse and worse.

The Chief Justice said he never granted leave

to appeal unless he was enabled to judge as to whether he agreed with the view of the law as taken by the learned Judge in the Court below; therefore he wanted to see his notes and to see what the evidence was.

Mr. Pollock suggested that an adjournment might be made to allow of the required papers being provided. Sometimes the Court had sat and adjourned on application.

The Puisse Judge—It has been done.

The Chief Justice—But in very exceptional cases. Proceeding, he said he understood that in this case the applicant had stated his intention to appeal if the decision was against him, before the decision was given. Knowing he was going to appeal it was his duty to give notice sooner.

Mr. Pollock replied that there were a great many things to consider. The sinews of war were one.

The Chief Justice said that the applicant who took several days to make up his mind must not blame the Court if his consideration of ways and means had the result of making the time go and he was too late.

After hearing Mr. Pollock further in his argument,

The Chief Justice said there were at least two of the propositions in law disputed in the motion which Mr. Justice Wise said were never laid down by him. It struck him that it would be more satisfactory to have the case re-heard.

Mr. Pollock stated his willingness to leave himself in their Lordships' hands.

An adjournment was made without prejudice to any application for a rehearing.

Mr. Pollock—I am much obliged to your Lordships.

CRICKET.

OVER 29 v. UNDER 29.

Owing to the fact that several members of the originally selected team "cried off" at the last minute, and to make the sides more equal, both numerically and otherwise, it was found necessary to change the title of the match on the 28th ult. from "Over 30 v. Under 30" to the one given above. A variety of circumstances prevented many of the regular players from taking part in this game, but, allowing for these, there surely must be something very "rotten in the State of Denmark" when, out of a membership, including Naval subscribers, of something over five hundred, only sixteen men can be found willing and able to play! As a matter of fact there were ten players on each side but four out of the twenty were neither members or Naval subscribers! It would seem that cricket in Hongkong is coming to a sorry pass indeed when it is found to be impossible to raise two full elevens for a Saturday match, and that on a day when there was no special motion going on to keep players away. The only conclusion that can be arrived at is, that the lack of enthusiasm which is, more or less, manifest in everything that goes on in this Colony is making itself apparent even in our national game. This is a state of things much to be deplored and it behoves every member of the H.K.C.C. to make more effort and to show more keenness if matters are to be prevented from going from bad to worse. The above match was the second of its title that has been played this season. The first ended in a victory for the "old ones" by 82, thanks chiefly to a fine innings of over 100 by France-Hayhurst. In the match under discussion, however, the "young ones" had their revenge and this, curiously enough, by exactly the same number of runs.

Ward won the toss for the "Over 29's" and a start was made at noon, an hour after the proper time! Allenby and Lowe were the first pair of batsmen and both played good cricket and scored freely. The score was taken to 63 before the former was bowled for a capital 29. Lowe continued to play well and was not disposed of until he had made 44—an invaluable innings and free from fault. Fawcett, who seems to have struck a run of bad luck, did not stay long but Ferrier and Ward made a useful stand, adding 35 runs during

their partnership. Ferrier left with the score at 118, he then being smartly taken at the wicket by Hancock. Ward continued his merry innings a little longer, but at 130 was well caught in the long field by the No. 1 Coolie who was fielding for the non-existent eleventh man, his contribution being a useful 81. Bird was the only other man on the side to give any trouble, but he could get no one to stay with him and the innings closed for the moderate score of 146. Somewhat contrary to general expectation, and probably much to his own surprise, Gray was the most successful bowler, taking 6 wickets for 35 runs and, but for an extremely expensive over just after tiffin, from which 18 runs were scored, his analysis would have been a very flattering one. Punnett bowled steadily and well and secured 4 wickets at a cost of 48 runs. Hancock, whom it is a pleasure to welcome back to the scene of many former triumphs, and who, by the way, has been doing great things at cricket in Japan, was in excellent form behind the wickets and was responsible for the dismissal of 4 batsmen, at least two of the catches being particularly smart ones. The fielding, with one or two exceptions, was better than usual. Cooke and Lampen started the batting for the youngsters and the score was taken to 22 before Lampen was bowled for a useful 12. Cooke and Punnett both experienced some luck early in their innings, as both of them were badly missed at the wicket. The "oldsters" were much handicapped by a steady drizzle coming on at this time which made the ball slippery and difficult to hold; the wicket, which had been none too good when dry, also became easier through this cause and consequently runs came freely from the somewhat inaccurate bowling. However, with the score at 61, Cooke was bowled for a useful though lucky 23, and it still looked to be anybody's game. On Carter joining Punnett, however, a determined stand was made, and with both playing really good cricket, they gradually put the issue beyond doubt and, indeed, were not separated until the score had reached 185. At this total, Carter was bowled for an admirable 57 which, so far as could be seen, contained no chance at all. As this is the second 50 made by this young player in eight days, it is clear that he is a person to be reckoned with in the constitution of any team, especially as he is by no means a bad bowler. After his departure, Punnett continued to play really excellent cricket and was not disposed of until the score had reached 210, at which total he was caught in the long field for an altogether excellent 104. He gave one or two chances early in his long innings but, apart from these mistakes, his batting was almost faultless and a treat to watch. The other men on the side give very little trouble as may be judged from the fact that they only scored—including extras—31 between them, and the innings closed for the creditable total of 228—82 in advance of their opponents. Lambie was much the most successful bowler, taking 4 wickets for 43 runs, and it was a pity that he was not tried sooner. The rain was some excuse for the poor play of the fielding and the youngsters certainly had this same element to thank to some extent for their comparatively easy victory. The following are the full scores and analyses:—

OVER 29.	
Lt. Allenby, R.N., b Punnett	29
A. R. Lowe, b Punnett	44
Col. Ferrier, A.P.D., c Hancock, b Punnett	18
Capt. Fawcett, R.A., c Hancock, b Gray	5
A. G. Ward (capt.), c sub., b Gray	31
B. E. O. Bird, not out	14
E. W. Maitland, c Punnett, b Gray	0
W. Dennis, c Hancock, b Punnett	1
Rev. A. J. Dexter, c Hancock, b Gray	0
P. T. Lambie, c Young, b Gray	5
Extras	14

Total.....146

UNDER 29.	
G. A. Cooke, R.N., b Lowe	21
Lt. L. C. Lampen, R.M.L.I., b Bird	12
A. d'Almada e Castro, c Ward, b Lambie	104
E. H. Carter, R.N., b Fawcett	57
T. C. Gray, b Lambie	0
H. Hancock (capt.), b Lambie	0
G. N. Fairhurst, b Fawcett	7
Lt. W. Young, R.M.L.I., not out	12
Sub-Lt. Sheppard, R.N., run out	2
Lt. Bradford, R.N., b Lambie	3
Extras	18

Total.....228

BOWLING ANALYSIS.
OVER 20.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Carter	9	1	35	—
Lampson	4	—	24	—
Punnett	11	—	49	4
Gray	6.2	—	35	5
UNDER 20.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Fawcett	14	4	55	2
Bird	8	—	34	1
Lowe	6	—	34	1
Maitland	5	1	21	—
Ward	4	—	17	—
Lamble	13.3	—	43	4
Dennis	3	—	17	—

CRAIGENGOWER C.C. v. DIOCESAN SCHOOL.

The cricket match played on the 28th ult. between the Craigengower C.C. and the Past and Present Pupils of the Diocesan School ended in a win for the former by 5 wickets and 126 runs. Lammert played his game of the season, knocking up 73 in very quick time. Scores:—

CRAIGENGOWER C.C.		
L. E. Lammert, b Hastings	73	
J. L. Stuart, c C. Blumenberg, b C. E. Hastings	3	
B. Pestonji, b C. E. Hastings	8	
L. A. Rose, b Brawn	24	
J. P. Jordan, c C. E. Hastings, b Evans	23	
M. E. Asgor, not out	1	
E. Bass, not out	12	
H. H. Taylor,		
A. A. Remedios,		
F. Rapp,		
H. Jacobji,		
Extras	8	

Total (for 5 wickets) 152

DIOCESAN SCHOOL PAST AND PRESENT.		
C. E. Hastings, b Lammert	1	
A. O. Brawn, b Pestonji	14	
F. W. Farnie, c and b Lammert	3	
C. S. Ford, b Pestonji	0	
P. E. Hastings, b Pestonji	0	
F. W. Drude, b Pestonji	0	
W. Blumenberg, b Pestonji	0	
C. Blumenberg, b Pestonji	0	
G. Evans, b Lammert	0	
H. Wong, not out	0	
A. Melbye, b Pestonji	6	
Extras	2	

Total 26

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Brawn	1.9	—	51	1
C. E. Hastings	6	—	35	2
Ford	4	—	34	—
B. Hastings	3	—	15	—
Evans	2	—	8	1
Blumenberg	1	—	2	—

DIOCESAN SCHOOL PAST AND PRESENT.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lammert	7	2	18	3
Pestonji	7	4	6	7

A.O.C. v. R.A.M.C.

This game was played on the 23th ult. at Happy Valley and resulted in a win for the Medicals. The following are the scores:—

R.A.M.C.		
Lt. Harvey, b Bradford	25	
Staff-Sergt. Wilson, c Turner, b Bradford	53	
Pte. Wooley, b Bradford	26	
Pte. Cook, c and b Bradford	9	
Sergt-Major Allwork, c Rutter, b Turner	3	
Pte. Goodwill, not out	3	
Staff-Sergt. Senior,		
Cpl. Skinner,		
Pte. Duff,		
Pte. Williams,		
Pte. Chaffer,		
Extras	8	

Total (for 5 wickets) 127

A.O.C.

Lance-Cpl. Lillywhite, b Cook	4
Staff-Sergt. Anson, b Williams	6
Lance-Cpl. Rutter, b Williams	6
Lance-Cpl. Turner, b Cook	0
Staff-Sergt. Hatwell, b Cook	13
Pte. Bradford, c and b Cook	0
Staff-Sergt. Farmer, b Cook	3
Pte. Bromley, b Williams	6
Pte. Burgess, c Harvey, b Cook	0
Sergt. Langley, b Williams	13
Pte. Lashbrook, b Williams	0
Extras	11

Total 62

In connection with a fire which broke out in Victoria Street on 27th December last, a foki employed there has been arrested on a charge of arson, on the complaint of the manager of the Fook On Insurance Society, and remanded.

FOOTBALL.

SHIELD TIE—H.M.S. "ARGONAUT" v. "B" CO., SHEERWOOD FORESTERS.

This match was played at Happy Valley on the 3rd inst. before a big turn-out of spectators, mostly Servicemen. The Foresters opened the game and the Argonauts the scoring, getting their first goal rather easily five minutes from the start. The sailors' second goal was a very soft one, the ball, a slow one, dropping into the corner of the net from a scrimmage in the Foresters' territory just when nobody expected it. The soldiers, despite the score against them, were playing a good game, and, when one came to analyse play, it was difficult to understand how they were so far behind. Luck would be the easiest way of explaining the mystery, but even that fails as a satisfactory solution, for there was more of ready resource than luck in the way the outside right took up a straying shot at the Foresters' goal and notched the third point for the sailors. The fourth goal—it had now apparently become a mere matter of recording goals—was beautifully kicked by the inside man on the right from a pass across the wing. The Foresters still continued to peg manfully away, but with it all they profited nothing, and were even unable to prevent their goal from being again jeopardised, oftener than once at that, too. Each time their custodian proved himself equal to the emergency, but there came a moment when no amount of skill on his part could avert disaster. This was when the whole line of sailor forwards took the leather up to convenient shooting distance and gained their fifth goal, which was the stage the game had reached when the interval arrived.

The Foresters invaded when the match was restarted, but could not get the better of the Argonauts' defences, and back the leather went. Some give-and-take play in the open ensued, and then the sailors broke away on another run for goal. The backs were outwitted, and the custodian, adopting the only alternative left him, ran out to save. He missed, and for the sixth time the ball, cleverly screwed in by the inside right man, found the net. The soldiers were now playing against a hopeless majority, which was further increased by a seventh goal scored close in from a free kick in favour of the Argonauts and a few moments later by an eighth sent between the sticks from a scrimmage; a ninth was just missed by the ball grazing the cross-bar. The Foresters, who showed up well, as has been indicated, in the first half, were nowhere in the second, and the game, for which Mr. Graham acted as referee, ended in a decisive victory for the Argonauts by 8 goals to 0.

SHIELD SEMI-FINAL—"GLORY" v. "OCEAN."

An immense number of people turned out on the 5th inst. to witness the match at Happy Valley between these two teams, the members of which were cheered as they took the field. The sides were:—

Glory.—Goal, Morgan; backs, Urquhart and Booth; halves, Wade, Crossman, and Watson; forwards, Lane, Hensford, Milford, Moore, and Cottell.

Ocean.—Goal, Lewis; backs, Harper and Hall (Rev. H. B.); halves, Richards, Whitworth, and Bates; forwards, McLean, Jackson, Winearts, Husband and Clark.

Referee—Mr. Triggs.

The *Ocean* kicked off facing the pavilion end and made the first invasion. The *Glory* gave away a free kick in centre, and very shortly after their back line was called upon to defend. Two byes fell to the *Ocean*, and then Milford came away splendidly. Hall stopped the rush for a moment, but it was renewed with determination, and eventually Milford crashed the ball into the net. This happened six minutes from the start. Lewis ran out to save, and hurt himself in some way; just how was not apparent from the stand. At any rate he had to retire, and one of the forwards took his place. The *Ocean* forwards were attacking resolutely and all Morgan's skill was required to keep them from scoring. At last *Glory* territory was cleared, and at the other end the custodian was called upon to handle. The game was a very fast one, and quite fulfilling expectations in that respect. Neither side could claim the advantage at this stage, not even the *Glory* with their one goal to the good. A corner at

the *Ocean* end looked dangerous, but the ball was rushed out to midfield, where a series of throws-in on the far side preceded an attack on the *Glory*'s position, which Morgan turned by flinging out the leather. Clark, outside left for the *Ocean*, gave an exhibition of pretty play up the wing, but struck the side of the net when he centred. At times the forward division of the *Ocean* placed very badly, which was surprising considering the minority they stood in. They improved when they saw the ground it lost them, and were enabled to pay Morgan another visit, forcing that custodian to handle. The call was returned by the *Glory* lads, who placed their opponents' goal in imminent danger by a shot which grazed the cross-bar. Soon afterwards came the equaliser for the *Ocean*, and what wild excitement it caused! The ball came whizzing in from the left wing, and when it was seen that Morgan had failed to stop it a great cheer was raised, and caps were thrown in the air by enthusiasts who danced in their glee. The *Ocean* scored five minutes from the interval the arrival of which found the result a draw, viz.—one goal each.

The *Ocean* broke through when the game restarted, and got a corner on their right which, however, they were unable to improve. The *Glory* responded but sent past and from the goal-kick the ball was again taken up the field by the *Ocean*. This effort met with a fate similar to that of the *Glory*'s, but the leather, after striking a spectator, rebounded into play and was netted. Many thought it a *bona fide* goal, but the referee very properly disabused their minds of that belief. Morgan stopped in his best style a high shot which came straight towards him over the heads of the players, and won deserved applause. A corner to the *Ocean*—they were doing all the pressing now—remained unconverted, but Morgan had to save several times before the siege finally lifted. Then the *Glory* came away, but Harper sent them to the rightabout, and before Morgan knew where he was the ball was into the net from a pass by Whitworth over Jackson's foot. The *Ocean* got a penalty kick close in, but Morgan surmounted tremendous odds and cleared magnificently. On their left wing the *Ocean* had another try for an opening, but were denied the opportunity of finding it. They tried again from a corner on their right, but were too eager and gave away a free kick by a foul charge. The forwards of the *Ocean* were now playing a capital game, and always showed judgment when disposing of the ball. Morgan was having an exciting time of it, but his ability carried him through even in the most desperate cases. Fifteen minutes from time the *Glory* registered the equaliser, Milford scoring from a beautiful pass by Lane. Thinking that their favourites were playing a losing game, the *Glory* supporters had hitherto preserved an unusual silence, but they now exercised their vocal powers to the full, and gave an extra shout when Lane just topped the *Ocean*'s goal with a skimming shot. The *Ocean* partisans were not one whit behind in this noisy demonstration of feeling, and every foot of ground the ball covered one way or the other gave rise to a perfect pandemonium. The game was stopped owing to an injury to one of the *Ocean* forwards, who thereafter played wearing only one boot! Five minutes from time the *Ocean* found the net a third time, but it was palpably off-side, and so the referee pronounced it to be. The game, which preserved its interest to the last, ended in a draw—two goals each.

The *Standard's* Odessa correspondent says the Russo-Chinese Bank has been commissioned to place a loan of 40,000,000 francs in Paris for Chinese railway extension.

The flag of the 17th French Colonial Regiment, which took part in the China expedition, was deposited with due formality in the Invalides on 24th January.

It is reported from Peking, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that H.E. Prince Su is intending to send his son and heir to Hongkong and Singapore for a short tour, as these are the nearest places to China where British progress amongst Chinese is the most apparent to the eye.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On the 28th ult. the second class re-sailed the eighth Club race for the second time and this time succeeded in finishing the course in time. There was some mistake made about the mark-boats and there was no mark-boat on the line at the start or in Quarry Bay. *Chanticleer* was an absentee, but the other four made a satisfactory start in spite of the absence of the mark-boat on the line, and in Quarry Bay all rounded a buoy off the pier, which was about 50 yards or so from where the mark should have been. The race was of the most fluky description. Changes in order were frequent. *Iris* led for a long way but in the end was passed by both *Maid Marian* and *Doreen*.

The official times at the finish were:—

	H. M. S.	Net time	Pts.	Tl.
<i>Maid Marian</i>	4 34 39	4 33 41	10	26
<i>Doreen</i> ...	4 39 0	4 36 15	4	24
<i>Iris</i> ...	4 41 0	4 41 0	1	46
<i>Payne</i> ...	5 5 0	4 54 55	0	36

CLUB RACE.

On the 28th ult. the Club race was sailed. The wind was extremely variable both in force and direction. On the line both at the start and finish the wind was west and light with northerly puffs coming off the Kowloon shore, while in Hung Hom Bay and beyond there was a gentle to moderate breeze which varied from N.E. to S.E.

In the first class *Vernon* got the best of the start from *Dione* and had soon established a nice lead. *Alannah* did not cross the line for a full 5 minutes after the other two, being late in getting over from her mooring, and soon gave up the race. When *Vernon* and *Dione* were off the Dock Point they met a nice breeze which gradually changed from N.E. to S.E. *Vernon* was ahead when they met the wind, but instead of keeping between *Dione* and the Channel Rocks which was the first mark, took a cast to the N. and let *Dione* go off by herself to the S. The consequence was that the change in the wind set *Dione* up and enabled her to close the gap between them to a few lengths and *Vernon* only rounded the Rocks some 25 seconds ahead. On the run to the Cust Rock Buoy *Dione* keeping in *Vernon's* wind drew up on her, got an overlap to windward just before the Buoy was reached and *Vernon* not luffing as she might have done conceded the inside turn and the lead to *Dione*. On the beat back to the Rocks *Dione* showed greatly improved form to that displayed by her in any previous race in a similar weight of wind, and slipped away from *Vernon* in a most unexpected manner, rounding the Rocks over two minutes ahead. On the run back to the Buoy on the reach to Meyer's Buoy she continued to gain and rounded the latter mark about 3½ minutes in front of *Vernon* with to all appearances the race in hand. But after *Dione* had reached Blackhead's in the rapidly falling wind and was standing along the line of the new reclamation she got becalmed and *Vernon* crept up on her. Then *Dione* got a west wind and stood out on the starboard tack heading for the centre of the line, but again got becalmed and was caught by the tide and drifted further out and to leeward. Meanwhile *Vernon* picked up a northerly slant close along the shore and romped home an easy winner.

The times at the finish were as follows:—

	H. M. S.	Points.	Total.
<i>Vernon</i> ...	3 42 58	10	60
<i>Dione</i> ...	3 46 31	4	67
<i>Alannah</i> did not finish		0	19

ONE-DESIGN CLASS.

The one-design class got away very level, *Kathleen* and *Colleen* slightly in rear. After a few minutes' running, during which the positions were unchanged, the wind veered round to the N.E. and spinnakers were lowered. *Erica*, *Bonito* and *Min* when off Blackhead's Point put about into the starboard tack and sailed into a calm patch from which they did not emerge until *Kathleen* and *Colleen* had worked out a lead of several minutes. *Colleen* kept well over to the centre of the channel and obtained a lead of about a minute and a half on *Kathleen*. These two soon got into a nice breeze which was gradually changing to S.E. and it then became one long board to Channel Rocks. *Kathleen* was about fifty yards astern of *Colleen* and at once began to gain steadily and surely. The others had at last picked up the breeze and were close together in the order *Min*, *Bonito*, *Erica*. The last was

sailing the fastest and gaining on the other two. *Kathleen* meanwhile had worked up a little into *Colleen's* weather and passed her about 50 yds from the Rocks. From this point *Kathleen* very slowly worked out a lead of about a minute and, although she at times got close up, *Colleen* at no time looked likely to pass her rival. *Erica* passed *Min* and *Bonito*, who were engaged in a close struggle for fourth place, on the second beat to the Rocks. The wind held until Meyer's Buoy was reached and the times here may be of interest:—

	H. M. S.
<i>Kathleen</i> ...	3 31 6
<i>Colleen</i> ...	3 32 19
<i>Erica</i> ...	3 36 42
<i>Min</i> ...	3 40 12
<i>Bonito</i> ...	3 40 28

A rapidly lessening breeze carried the boats as far as Blackhead's Point and there died to a mere breath from the north. *Erica* had gained a good deal on the leaders and the three boats, closely hugging the shore, were creeping slowly towards the line when suddenly the breeze changed to west. *Colleen* seemed to get this breeze first and almost caught *Kathleen*, who however got an air in time. *Erica* and *Kathleen* have won the last five races alternately and the latter has come in first and last alternately in the last six races. This shows how little a series of only twelve races can prove which is the best boat of a one-design class in a harbour like Hongkong where luck is nine points of the battle.

The times at the finish were:—

	H. M. S.	points total
<i>Kathleen</i> ...	3 56 50	10 46
<i>Colleen</i> ...	3 57 30	4 31
<i>Erica</i> ...	3 59 28	1 38
<i>Bonito</i> ...	4 10 0	0 19
<i>Min</i> ...	did not finish	0 21

2ND CLASS.

The old *Payne* with the help of her 55 sec. a mile handicap scored another win, which in view of the very poor form recently shown by the *Iris* should secure her the last prize for the second year running.

The times at the finish were:—

	H. M. S.	Net times	Points	Total
<i>Doreen</i> ...	4 19 0	4 16 0	4	24
<i>Maid Marian</i> ...	4 21 10	4 20 20	1	27
<i>Payne</i> ...	4 24 40	4 15 30	10	46
<i>Iris</i> ...	4 25 30	4 25 30	0	45

AMALGAMATION WITH BOAT CLUB.

A general meeting of the members of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club was held on the 5th inst. in the Cricket Club Pavilion to consider the advisability of amalgamating with the Hongkong Boat Club. Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Commodore of the Club, presided, and among those present were Messrs. Clark, A. Denison, Ryan, Mitchell, Ough, Deacon, Thornhill, Blood, Rouse and M. W. Slade (hon. secretary).

The HON. SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN stated, in his remarks in opening the business of the meeting, that new site was necessary and that the cost of the only site available was more than the Club was able to face alone; besides it was doubtful if they could obtain the site without co-operation with the Boat Club. He moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting approves of the amalgamation of the Boat Club with the Yacht Club in the event of the new site (shown on the plan laid on the table) for the combined Clubs being obtained from the Government."

Mr. A. DENISON seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

This was all the business.

On the 2nd inst. the authorities at the Central Station reported on the 3d inst. a fight took place at 101, Des Voeux Road between the inmates of the first and second floors, the former alleging that the latter had spilled a quantity of water which dripped through the ceiling and brought discomfort to those living underneath. In the course of the *melée* one Chinaman jumped or was thrown a from window thirty feet from the ground, and sustained injuries, including a broken thigh, which resulted in his death in the Government Civil Hospital a few hours later. Some arrests were made, and the prisoners are being detained pending enquiries by the police.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 28th February.)

When I wrote last week with reference to the recent race meeting in Hongkong, I certainly did not anticipate that so much feeling would be raised about the matter as there evidently has been, judging from the correspondence in the *Daily Press* under the heading of "Racing in Hongkong." Nor do I think that the correspondence was a natural corollary of my remarks. Mr. Morgan Phillip's letter in Thursday's issue does not at all events allege that there was anything offensive in what I stated last week. It is the opinion of many people, among whom I am content to be classed, that the accumulation of horses in the leading stable did act prejudicially to the interest in several events. But this does not show that the leading stable was to blame. On the contrary, it might be taken to show that the other stables gave way unduly to "funk." The interest which our best rider takes in racing should, properly speaking, stimulate the sport. That the reverse seems to be the result is Hongkong's misfortune. I only wish that the gentleman in question had more followers.

The rather long delayed programme of the April Meeting has now been published, and if only owners of animals would pluck up heart there should be a chance of a successful meeting. The Jockey Club would have been wiser had it given a little more detailed notice of the forthcoming affair, but, after all, horse and pony owners do not so much want to criticise the Stewards as to take advantage of the opportunities offered them. I still think that an April meeting is too near to the great annual event to make it worth while for those with a little money to spare to keep their horses in training or buy what they can at auction. But a one-day race meeting should at least offer better sport than the ordinary gymkhana out here.

To-day's leading cricket match is "Over 30 v. Under 30," and the juniors have a heavy defeat to wipe out, the previous match on the 11th October last having ended in a victory for the older men by 82 runs on the first innings—189 to 107 were the scores. On that occasion the brilliant Lt. France-Hayhurst took the opportunity of putting together 106, only one run less than the other side's whole innings, while Capt. Fawcett captured 6 wickets of the "Under 30" team for only 21 runs. The teams for to-day's match appear in other column, and it is to be hoped that a closer game will result. The "younger men" of Hongkong ought to be tired by now of hearing of their lack of sport.

Footballers to-day will have an opportunity of witnessing a Rugby match—one of the last of the Rugby season, I expect—the H.K.F.C. meeting a combination of the *Ocean* and *Tulbot*. The Club has recently suffered heavy losses, Graham and Paddy having left Hongkong and Pearce having injured his collar-bone in the last game he took part in. What this means to the Club's back formation will readily be appreciated by those who have followed the doings of the Rugby team. There are a lot of capable players in the selected team, but the vacancies can hardly be said to be adequately filled, especially as two or three forwards are also missing.

It was a welcome sight to see the Hongkong Hockey Club winning two matches in succession this week, even if the victories were gained at the expense of two of the weaker naval teams. The Club had to contend with a certain want of homogeneity in its sides, and the combination has thereby suffered. There is no doubt it should have stood higher in the list with a less variable eleven. Running two teams, moreover, was a plucky but doubtfully advantageous experiment.

Owing to the deeply regretted death of Dr. Canton, two of the players who were down to appear in the International polo match last Saturday could not turn up, and the match between England and Scotland was scratched. Scotland could not put in a full team to-day, so

in consequence the draw has been revised and England will meet Ireland in the first round this afternoon. The teams will be—England—Light, Kitchener, Keller, and Smith; Ireland—May, Thornhill, Steen, and Lambkin. The winners will meet the Scottish team in the final. This afternoon the band of the 14th Bombay Infantry will be in attendance at Causeway Bay. OMPAX.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR FEBRUARY.

The following cards were returned:—

Mr. E. A. Ram	95	—	15	=	80
Major Taylor	92	—	11	=	81
Mr. J. E. Lee	96	—	15	=	81
Captain Rumsey	95	—	13	=	82
Mr. E. V. D. Parr	98	—	15	=	83
Mr. H. W. Robertson	96	—	12	=	84
Mr. E. J. Grist	90	—	5	=	85
Mr. A. B. Lowson	91	—	6	=	85
Major King	93	—	8	=	85
Mr. C. W. May	92	—	6	=	86
Captain Henderson	99	—	11	=	83
Captain Erskine	104	—	16	=	88
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	93	—	2	=	91
Mr. G. Stewart	93	—	4	=	94

34 entries.

POOL.

Mr. F. A. Ram	95	—	15	=	80
Mr. J. E. Lee	96	—	15	=	81
Mr. E. V. D. Parr	98	—	15	=	83
Mr. E. J. Grist	90	—	5	=	85
Mr. A. B. Lowson	91	—	6	=	85
Mr. C. W. May	92	—	6	=	86
Captain Erskine	104	—	16	=	88
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	93	—	2	=	91

33 entries.

SHOOTING.

ROYAL MARINE MONTHLY SWEEPSTAKES—FEBRUARY, 1903.

The following were the principal scores in this competition:—

CLASS A.	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Total
Col. Sergt. Cross, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. <i>Tamar</i>	32	33	34	99
Sergt. Myers, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. <i>Eclipse</i>	33	32	27	92
Bombr. Louillette, R.M.A., H.M.S. <i>Ocean</i>	31	31	26	86
Capt. W. T. C. Jones, D.S.O., R.M.L.I., H.M.S. <i>Cressy</i>	27	28	31	85
Pte. G. Collier, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. <i>Cressy</i>	31	32	20	83

24 entries.

CLASS B.

Pte. G. Buckenham, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. <i>Cressy</i>	31	32	34	97
Sergt. A. Powell, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. <i>Amphitrite</i>	31	31	19	81

21 entries.

THE APRIL RACE MEETING.

The Stewards of the Jockey Club have published the programme for the one-day Meeting, to be held on 4th April. It is as follows:—

Two races open to all China ponies.

One race open to China subscription griffins of this season, winners of any official race barrel.

One race open to all horses. Handicap; any height.

Two races open to all subscription winners of this season. Handicaps.

Entries close on 15th March. Full details will be announced later.

Commenting on Hongkong's Flogging Law Amendment Bill, the *Singapore Free Press* says:—"If flogging is to be resorted to at all, it must be made effective according to Chinese ideas, and we venture to think that a mild punishment such as that awarded by the Hongkong Bill is better dispensed with. It will provoke only the ridicule of the men who know that if he were merely reasonably suspected of being guilty of the offences which British law demands shall be proved up to the hilt in a British Colony, he would be flogged ten times as severely in his own country, as is contemplated by the ultra-sensitive regulations proposed for Hongkong."

THE "OPEN DOOR" AT PORT ARTHUR.

When the Anglo-Saxon Powers satisfied themselves that if they allowed Russia to take Manchuria and the Liaotung Peninsula, she would scrupulously observe the policy of the "Open Door," they satisfied themselves much more easily than did the British and American residents in the Far East; and the translations from the "Novoe Krai" published in the *Echo de Chine* give some indications of the spirit that really actuates the Russians at Port Arthur. In the first place, Port Arthur feels that it must have a special bank; and thanks to the untiring efforts of General Alexieff, it will soon have two, a Bank of Commerce and a Bank of Agriculture. The Russian Bank of Foreign Commerce is to open a branch there, which will enable Russian enterprise to obtain the credits which it has hitherto sought in vain, and thus compete on equal terms with foreigners. Another bank, the Jaroslavsko-Kostromskoi Ziemelnoi Bank, proposes to lend money on the security of land and buildings at Port Arthur, which will enable the landed proprietors in the new town to proceed with their buildings, which they have been unable to do hitherto from want of capital. The establishment of these banks will perhaps be considered a natural development; but we go on to read that it has been discovered that foreign fire insurance companies have been doing a large business, by means of travelling or resident agents in the Peninsula, without asking permission of the Russian authorities, and so without coming under Russian control. The chief inspector of the Insurance Company "Russie" has accordingly requested General Alexieff to investigate this scandal and take measures to remedy it. The General delegated the enquiry to the Civil Commissioner, who has reported in effect that the agents and sub-agents of foreign insurance companies, masking their operations by means of all sorts, have succeeded in persuading a large number of inexperienced clients to take out policies of insurance. To remedy this, it is proposed to pass a law prohibiting advances on any property insured in a foreign company. It is very certain that our predictions will be fulfilled that the gradual consolidation of the Russian hold over Manchuria will be accompanied by the gradual closing of the "Open Door," which is now not much more than a jar—*N.C. Daily News*.

MINING IN THE FAR EAST.

The *Standard's* correspondent at Odessa, wrote on the 17th ult.:—

The Bourse Committee at Vladivostok has addressed, through the Governor, a petition to the Imperial authorities praying for the removal, or a modification, of the existing prohibitory law against all foreign industrial undertakings, more especially mining works, in the coastwise districts of Russian China. The Statute in question, promulgated June 17, 1901, prohibits all foreign mining operation and other industrial exploitation within one hundred versts (about sixty-six miles) of the coast line. The petitioners state that, owing to the lack of native capital, and the absence of all spirit of enterprise on the part of the Russians themselves, there is no immediate prospect of a rational development of the mineral wealth and other industrial resources of that region. It is pointed out also that, as at present administered, this prohibitive law is partial and unsatisfactory in effect. Exceptions are made in the granting of concessions without any comprehensible bases. There has lately arrived at Vladivostok quite a crowd of American, French, and Belgian prospectors, all of them representing wealthy syndicates, seeking mining concessions on the Ussuri, in Sakhalien, and in the district of Vladivostok.

A powerful French syndicate recently applied for a concession to work the extensive coalfields in the neighbourhood of Vladivostok. The concession was refused, but it has now been granted to an English Company trading under the Russian flag. This British enterprise will shortly, it is expected, be in a position to furnish both Vladivostok and the Ussuri Railway with a plentiful, good, and cheap supply of coal fuel. Many foreign

syndicates have sought concessions for the exploitation of the silver and lead deposits lately discovered in the Ussuri region; but they were met by the prohibitive law with regard to the working of all kinds of mineral ore by foreigners. What the country requires, the petitioners urge, is, for a number of years at least, a complete freedom of operation for foreign capitalists, engineers, practical miners, and, above all, foreign brains and energy. It is curious to learn from this petition that the mining affairs in all parts of Far Eastern Russia are subordinate to the Mining Commission at Irkutsk, many thousand of versts distant, and necessarily ignorant of the local conditions in the extreme limits of its official jurisdiction. The petition demands that this anomalous state of things be forthwith remedied. Covertly, the petition conveys a direct reproach to the Imperial Government for playing the part of the dog in the manger in the matter of these so-called "coastwise" mining industries in the Far East. It remains to be seen whether the obstructively prohibitive law will be abrogated or modified.

SHRINKAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

Although it has been anticipated for some time, says the *Manila Times*, that there would be a falling-off in customs collections it is somewhat disquieting to be confronted by the actual condition itself. It was predicted months ago that these collections which form the principal source of revenue to the government would shrink, but the cry of "wolf" was raised early and the failure of the wolf to come seems to have created a somewhat unwarranted confidence in certain quarters. Even now it is said that the slump is but temporary and that the revenues will speedily pick up. We claim none of the attributes of a prophet and pessimism is repugnant to us, but we see little ground for this new hope. On the contrary, we are afraid that there may be a further decrease instead of an increase. The fact is that business which carries the tribute to the custom-house is very bad. Of that unhappy fact there can be no denial. Every business man in town will testify to it and you can feel it in the very air of every business street. This country has played in very hard luck in a business sense for many months past. If circumstances had been favourable at the close of the war we believe the recovery would have been speedy and the present time prosperous, but they were desperately unfavourable. Disease came first to kill the domestic animals and paralyse agriculture, and then to claim thousands of inhabitants. These were disasters that crowned the ravages of war. Next the army was largely withdrawn and the country lost millions of dollars that had theretofore been spent directly among the people. After that the silver slump added its weight to the debit side of the account. Meantime the influx of American gold and American enterprise that had been promised failed to appear. Capital was shy on currency and labour questions, or fully occupied at home, or doubtful about the permanency of American tenure in the islands. Any or all of these causes may have been the reason—in any event money failed to come. Nor was there much of an impetus given to exportation of Philippine products to the United States. Congress made a slight cut in the tariff but it failed of its purpose. Some of these many ills have passed and others will soon cease to exist. The wave of cholera has expended itself over most of the islands, steps have been taken to restore agriculture, Congress is framing a currency bill and may give further concessions as to tariff, and there may be an amendment of the laws that now operate against some lines of investment. We have no doubt that in the end things will be righted and the islands placed upon a footing of prosperity as permanent as can be provided, but until the tide does turn we fear the islands are in for hard times. In this connection the government has many difficult problems to solve for it has entered upon much work that cannot be abandoned. There are lines along which there can be retrenchment and rather than face deficit orders we are strongly in favour of retrenchment.

HONGKONG.

A Portuguese boy of five years met his death on the 4th inst. by falling over a balcony sixty feet from the ground. He was killed instantly.

Mr. G. W. F. Playfair, of the National Bank of China, and Mrs. Playfair were among those who left Hongkong on the 27th ult. by the s.s. Korea.

Chevalier Z. Volpicelli, the Italian Consul-General, has been decorated by the King of Italy with the order of S. Maurizio e Lazzaro, a much coveted distinction.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 28th ult. were 362 non-Chinese and 91 Chinese to the former; and 113 non-Chinese and 4,344 Chinese to the latter institution.

An European passenger fell overboard from one of the Star Ferry launches on the 3rd inst. The launch was lying alongside the jetty at Hongkong, and the passenger in question was crossing the gangway when he slipped and fell between the boat and the pier. The result was a wetting for him and the temporary disorganising of the traffic.

Among the passengers who left on the 4th inst. by the German mail s.s. *Preussen* was Mr. E. Cornwall Lewis who since the death of Captain Hastings has acted as Postmaster. During his tenure of that office Mr. Lewis carried out the work of his department with every acceptance to the public and was one of the most popular Government servants in the Colony. Although he has been in very poor health for some months past, he stuck to his post until the new Postmaster came to relieve him. Now Mr. Lewis goes on well-earned holiday. His London address is 91, Park Lane, Stoke Newington, N. It is questionable whether he will come back to Hongkong. His many friends here would welcome his return. General satisfaction would be felt however if the Postal authorities repaid his long and faithful services by appointing Mr. Lewis to that higher position which these services entitle him to.

The returns of the Police Court for 1902, compiled by Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, are published in the *Government Gazette*. They show that during the year 18,057 prisoners were charged in 6,070 cases. This total comprised 14,404 males and 803 females convicted and punished, 2,071 males and 63 females discharged; 99 prisoners were committed for trial at the Supreme Court; nine males were detained pending orders from H.E. the Governor; 266 were ordered to find surety to keep the peace; six were ordered to find security to be of good behaviour; and 18 were ordered to find security to answer any charge. Three male and two female witnesses were punished for perjury, and the cases of 211 males were undecided. Summonses for defendants numbered 5,367, and for witnesses 46. There were 187 warrants for arrest, 1,474 for search and 162 for entering gambling-houses. Only one fire enquiry was held during the year.

Ivy, the winner of the Hongkong Derby two years ago, met with an inglorious fate the other day. The mare bolted from Causeway Bay whilst being ridden in a polo match, and galloped along Praya East. Near Fenwick's engineering works she collided violently with a ricksha, and, besides hopelessly damaging the vehicle, injured herself so greatly that she fell stunned. The occupant of the ricksha, a gentleman named Mr. H. A. Burke, was thrown out and sustained a slight hurt to his arm. But the chapter of accidents did not end here; for an old Chinese woman was knocked down by the gyrating vehicle and rendered unconscious for a time; she recovered soon afterwards, and was able to proceed home, preferring her own domicile to a bed in the hospital, where the police in vain tried to persuade her to go. Ivy was examined by Mr. A. Gibson, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, who pronounced the mare to be in a very bad way, consequent on an injury to her head which had resulted in partial paralysis. A hammer was procured from Messrs. Fenwick's establishment, and with this the unfortunate animal was given her quietus.

The Medical Officer of Health's return of plague cases reported in the Colony for the week ending February 28th, shows twelve cases—all fatal, all the victims being Chinese. Ten of these cases occurred in the City of Victoria, one at Hunghom, and one body was found in the harbour. These brought the total number of cases from January 1st to 33—all fatal. No cases are returned under the headings of cholera, diphtheria, relapsing fever, scarlet fever and typhus fever. Under other headings appear two cases of enteric fever—one European and one Chinese—with fatal results in one case; one European case of puerperal fever; and four cases of smallpox—one European, one Indian, and two Chinese—one case proving fatal.

On the 28th ult. the *Hcungshan* took about 300 passengers to Macao. The *Chukong*, which left in the evening of the same day, carried about 200 excursionists. On the 1st inst. the *Wingchai* sailed with a complement of about 400 people on board. During Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week over 1,000 passengers traveled to Macao for the Procession of the Cross. The Procession started at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday and ended at 6.45. At its close, Rev. Father Xavier delivered a very impressive and eloquent address. Never before had so many people visited Macao to witness the ancient sacred celebration, this record being perhaps due to the fact that the hours of departure of the different steamers were arranged in a manner that suited the convenience of the public.

On the 2nd inst. the British cruiser *Talbot* left for a cruise, the U.S. gunboat *Callao* for Canton, the German gunboats *Ilitis* and *Tiger* for Swatow and Kiaochau respectively, the Portuguese gunboat *Diu* for Macao, and the Japanese cruisers *Hashidato*, *Itenkushima* and *Mitsushima* for Singapore and Colombo.

The British flagship *Albion* arrived on the 4th inst. from Amoy and the cruisers *Blenheim* and *Fearless* from Weihaiwei and Mirs Bay respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Some time ago a gentleman arrived at Singapore from Japan and piling his baggage in a ricksha directed the coolie to follow him to Raffles Hotel. The vehicle he was in out-distanced the ricksha in which the baggage was, and as he had forgotten to take the number of this ricksha the coolie promptly cleared with the luggage. Everyone knows the difficulty it is to trace stolen property in Singapore, remarks the *Free Press*, but although the police did not know the number of the vehicle in which the property was last seen, they have managed to trace it to an empty house in Craig Road, where all the goods, with the exception of a gold chain, probably pawned, and which may be got back later, were recovered. Three ricksha coolies who have been loitering near the house where the property was found have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the affair.

That the Trade Mark question in China is a difficult one to manage is to merchants fairly well known. The *N. C. Daily News* says:—We have recently heard of the marks of cigarettes and soap being imitated by Chinese, and we now learn that imitations of the well known "Ilford" photographic goods have found their way to the China market, from Germany. The imitation is a good one, and at first glance is not noticeable. The letter "M" is prefixed to the word "Ilford," so that the imitation goods are under the name of "Milford," and bear as a trade mark a sailing ship within a circle, instead of a steamer, which is the registered trade mark of the Ilford, Limited, on all goods of their manufacture. Among Chinese who cannot read English, the imitation would hardly be detected. We understand that the Ilford, Limited, have through the medium of the British Consul-General in Shanghai, taken steps to prevent further sales of the "Milford" goods in China, and their trade mark and label being registered in Great Britain, as also on the Continent of Europe, they will, now that they have succeeded in tracing the source of supply, take proceedings against the manufacturers in Europe. A proclamation forbidding the sale by Chinese of imitations of Ilford photographic plates and papers has been issued by the Shanghai Taotai.

The Manila Cablenews announces that the American De Forest Wireless Telegraphy Company is preparing to establish large stations in Manila, Hongkong, Honolulu and the Southern end of Lower California, and plans to enter the commercial field in the Pacific in active competition with the cable companies. Large quantities of high power apparatus have been purchased, and the company announces that it will be ready for its first practical tests by June of this year. Dr. De Forest, the inventor of this American wireless system, has conducted a series of successful tests between Annapolis and Washington. The estimated cost of the Hongkong station is \$5,000.

The *Directory and Chronicle for China, Japan, Straits Settlements, Indo-China, Philippines, &c.*, for 1903 has been issued, and again shows numerous improvements and additions. The appendix contains, amongst the other British Treaties with China, the new Commercial Treaty signed by Sir James Mackay in September last. The various Directories have been carefully revised, the descriptions corrected and extended, in some cases, as for instance that of Weihaiwei, re-written, and the maps and plans have also been brought thoroughly up-to-date. Two new plans, one of Tsingtau and one of Batavia, are included in this volume. A feature in the present issue is the number of illustrated advertisements interleaved through the work. They are highly suggestive of local enterprise, and indicate the increasing appreciation by the public of the book as a commercial *code mecum*. The present is the forty-first year of publication, during the whole of which period it has been steadily increasing in size and amount of information.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—The prices are further advancing, market being brisk.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.50 to \$8.55	pel.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.85 to 7.70	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	6.80 to 6.35	"
Do. " 2, Brown ...	6.15 to 6.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.40 to 8.45	"
Do. No. 1, White.....	7.60 to 7.65	"
Do. " 1, Brown ...	5.95 to 6.00	"
Do. " 2, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.05 to 12.00	"
Shekloong "	10.80 to 10.85	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 9th March.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.90 to 3.95
" Round, Good quality	5.60 to 5.65
" Long	5.80 to 5.85
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.25 to 4.30
" Garden, " No. 1	4.75 to 4.80
" White,	5.85 to 5.80
" Fine Cargo	6.10 to 6.15

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 9th February.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$ 80.00 to \$130.00
 English—Nos. 18 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00
 " 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 128.00
 " 28 to 32, ... 138.00 to 142.00
 " 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.30 to 2.40
 7 lbs. 2.50 to 2.80
 8.4 lbs. 3.30 to 4.10
 9 to 10 lbs. 4.00 to 5.60
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.80 to 3.00
 58 to 60 " 3.45 to 3.75
 64 to 66 " 4.00 to 5.50
 Fine 5.75 to 8.20
 Book-folds 4.75 to 7.50
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.80 to 1.75
 T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y 2.00 to 2.30
 7 lbs. (32 ") " 2.40 to 2.95
 8 lbs. (32 ") , Mexs. 2.50 to 2.75
 7 lbs. (32 ") , " 3.00 to 3.50
 8 to 8.4 oz., (30 in.) 3.30 to 4.00
 Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 " 4.75 to 7.30
 to 14 lbs.)

FANCY COTTONS.—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 1.50 to 5.50
 8 lbs.)
 Brocades—Dyed to

DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted	per yard	to
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.29	to 0.60
Velvets—18 in	0.26	to 0.29
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.37	to 5.00

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.75	to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25	to 3.10
Long Ella—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.45	to 9.50
Assorted	7.60	to 9.65
Camlets—Assorted	13.50	to 38.00
Lastings—30 yd., 31 inches	14.00	to 21.00
Assorted	14.00	to 21.00
Orleans—Plain	10.00	to
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.65	to 0.90
Fine quality,	1.00	to 2.50

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	5.00	to
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	5.00	to
Swedish Bar	5.00	to
Small Round Rod	5.20	to
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.6	to
Wire, 16/25	9.50	to
Wire Rope Old	3.50	to
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.45	to
Australian	9.45	to
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	43.00	to
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	43.00	to
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	43.00	to
Composition Nails	81.00	to
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00	to
Tin	96.50	to
Tin Plates	8.00	to
Steel 1/2 to 1	6.50	to
Quicksilver	18.00	to
Window Glass	5.75	to
Kerosene Oil	3.18	to

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 7th March.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/7
Bank Bills, on demand	1/7 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/7 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/7 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/7 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/7 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	199 1/2
Credits, 4 months' sight	203 1/2

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	162 1/2
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	38 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	39 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand	118 1/2
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ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand	118 1/2
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ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight

Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
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ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	77 1/2
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	par
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ON SINGAPORE.—On demand

On demand	95 1/2
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ON BATAVIA.—On demand

On demand	2 p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—On demand

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—On demand

On demand	68
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

Gold Leaf, 100 fine, per tael	\$12.53
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BAR SILVER, per oz.

Bar Silver, per oz.	22 1/2
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VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Formosa (str.), Glaucus (str.), Awa Maru (str.).
FOR LONDON.—Valella (str.), Pingsuey (str.), Jason (str.), Formosa (str.), Machaon (str.), Kintuck (str.), Glaucus (str.), Awa Maru (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Nestor (str.), Deucalion (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—Annam (str.), Glaucus (str.), Awa Maru (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Hamburg (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Serbia (str.), Bamberg (str.), Andalusia (str.), Konigsberg (str.), Sambia (str.), Saronia (str.).
FOR GENOA.—Kintuck (str.), Deucalion (str.).

FOR TRIESTE.—Nippon (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B. C.—Lyra (str.), Oanfa (s.r.).

Aki Maru (str.), Shinano Maru (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).

Athenian (str.).

FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indrasamha (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Changsha (str.).

Empire (str.).

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—

Bombay Maru (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—

Suisang (str.).

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—

Ischia (str.).

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, March 6th, 1903.—A good general business has been transacted during the past week, and rates in some instances have improved. Our market closes firm with a tendency to advance.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been booked at \$690 and (a small lot) at \$695, and close steady at the former quotation. The London rate has declined 10s. and is now quoted at £62. 10s. ex dividend. Nationals are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have further advanced, and close strong with buyers at \$525. China Traders have been booked at \$59 and continue on request. North Chinas are unchanged at 11s. 1924 buyers. Yangtzes are still in demand at \$135. Cantons and Straits are neglected at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are wanted at \$305 ex the dividend of \$22 1/2 per share for 1901 paid on the 3rd instant. Chinas have sold at \$ 7 and close firm at \$81 ex the dividend of \$6 per share for 1901 paid to-day.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$36 1/2 and \$37, and close firm at the former rate. Indo-Chinas have been the medium of considerable excitement in the north where the quotation advanced to the equivalent of \$113 cash and \$115 June, but has since receded to \$103 cash, at which rate shares are now procurable. China and Manilas have improved to \$38 buyers. Douglases are slightly lower at \$43 with sales and further sellers. Star Ferries (old) continue in request and can now be placed at \$26: the new issue is unchanged at \$14 with sales and buyers. Shell Transports have found buyers at £1. 10s. 0d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$99, \$100 and \$101, and are still in request. Luzons are unchanged with sellers at \$12 1/2.

MINING.—Punjams have declined to \$3 1/2 sellers. Rauba have been placed at \$7 1/2. Charbonnages are unchanged and without business. Jelebus can be procured at \$1.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in active demand, and close strong at \$204 buyers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$9 1/2, but close somewhat easier with sellers at this rate. New Amoy Docks are slightly lower with sales at \$39 1/2. Farnhams are quoted at 11s. 18s. sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$176, and more shares are procurable at this figure. Kowloon Lands sold at \$33 and more shares are wanted. West Points have improved to \$53 buyers. Humphreys Estates sold at \$11 1/2 and there are more shares to be had at the rate. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$143 and are in further demand. Oriente Hotels are quoted at \$30 with sales and sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—We have no business to report under this head. Hongkong Cottons are wanted at \$16 1/2 but are not procurable under \$17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments are reported sold at \$15. Green Island Cements have been disposed of at \$22 1/2, \$22 1/2, and \$22 1/2, and more shares can be placed at the latter rate. China Borneos are wanted at \$21. Watsons continue on offer at \$14. Electrics (old) have found buyers at \$14, and (new) at \$6 85. Ropes are still enquired for at \$110. Steam Water-Boats have sold at \$11 1/2. Campbell, Moores have been disposed of at \$40 and more are wanted. China Providents are steady at \$9

with sales and further small buyers. Watkins have sold at \$8 1/2. Powells are wanted at \$10. Philippine Tobacco T. is can be procured at the reduced rate of \$20.

MEETINGS.—Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf Co., ordinary yearly meeting on the 12th instant. Luzon Sugar Refining Company, ordinary yearly meeting on the 17th instant. China Sugar Refining Company, ordinary yearly meeting on the 17th instant. Geo. Fenwick & Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 9th instant. Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 13th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$698, buyers £62.10, [ex div.]
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$22 1/2, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$22 1/2, buyers
Four. Shares	21	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$21, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$10.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$101.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$350.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 37.
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 37 1/2.
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$16 1/2, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$20.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$22 1/2.
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$14, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$8.85, sales & buy.
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$327.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$11 1/2, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$143, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$228.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$95.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$110, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$204, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$102 1/2.
China Traders	\$25	\$81, ex div.
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$59, buyers
North China	\$25	\$3.15, ex div. buy.
Straits	\$20	Tls. 192 1/2, buyers
Union	\$100	\$1, nominal
Yangtze	\$60	\$525, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$131, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$176, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$11 1/2, sales & sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$33, sales & buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$53, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$12 1/2, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$15, sales
Jelebu	\$5	\$600, sellers
Punjom	\$10 1/2	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$2 1/2, sellers
Raub	18	75 cents, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$7 1/2, sales
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$38 1/2, sales
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$30, sales & sellers
Robinson Co. Piano, Ltd.	\$50	\$10, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$50, nominal
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$28, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$23, nominal
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$43, sellers
Shel Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$36 1/2.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21. 10s., sales & [sellers]
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$2 1/2, buyers
United Alabaster	\$4	\$5, sales & buy.
Do.	\$10	\$14, sales & buy.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	nominal.
Wan's Ltd.	\$10	\$8 1/2, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$153.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 25th February (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). There has been a very considerable excitement in our market during the week, caused principally by the rapid and steady rise of Maatschappij, etc., in Langkat shares, and also the uncertainty of the Indo-China market, with large transactions in these shares for cash and for forward rates. **MARINE INSURANCE.**—China Traders have changed hands at \$57. North Chinas unchanged, enquiries for shares but none offering. Yangtzes have changed hands at \$135; there are buyers at this rate. Cantons are still offering at \$162; Free Insurance. —China Fires have been placed at \$86 ex. 73. **SHIPPING.**—Indo-Chinas. On the 18th shares were placed at Tls. 71; on the 19th at Tls. 70, 69; for cash; 69 March; 70 May. On the 20th at 70 for February Settlement, 69 for April, 69 1/2 May, 70 June. On the 29th at 71 cash. On the 23rd at 73 1/2 May, 72 June, 73 cash, 73 March, 72/72 1/2 cash. The irregularity of this market between cash and time shares is unaccountable here. Shells have been purchased from the South at £1.10. Shanghai Tug Boats wanted at Tls. 80, and Cargo Boats at Tls. 150. Docks. —S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. —Owing to the report of the Docks being full up with work and with a considerable amount of craft building to do, we have to note a rise in these shares. The market opened on the 18th at Tls. 177 1/2 to Tls. 180 for cash, and Tls. 177 1/2 settlement, Tls. 182 1/2 for March. On the 19th at Tls. 180, 182 1/2 cash. On the 20th at Tls. 182 1/2/183 with sales at Tls. 183 1/2 and Tls. 185 for March, Tls. 187 1/2 for April, and Tls. 191 1/2 to 192 1/2 for June. On the 21st April shares again changed hands at Tls. 187 1/2. On the 23rd cash shares changed hands at Tls. 186 1/2 and Tls. 187 1/2, Tls. 190 for April, and Tls. 191/192 1/2 for May. On the 24th business was done at Tls. 187 1/2 cash and for March, Tls. 191 for April, Tls. 192 1/2 for May, Tls. 195 for June, Tls. 197 1/2 for July, and Tls. 200 for August. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves, have changed hands at Tls. 312 1/2. Yangtze Wharves steady \$200. **SUGARS.**—We have no business to report under this heading. China Sugars weaker again, sellers at \$103. **MINING.** The only note under this heading is a weaker market for Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. shares: offers are wanted for shares, which could possibly be obtained at Tls. 8, to Tls. 8.10. **LANDS.**—Shanghai new shares were placed at \$113 on the 19th, and at 115 on the 24th. The latter quotation being ex dividend just paid. Weihaiwei Lands have been placed at Tls. 6.10; there are buyers at this rate. **INDUSTRIAL.**—Internationals have been placed at Tls. 38, and Ewos at Tls. 36 1/2, there are buyers of both these stocks at these rates. Lion-Kung-Mow can be had at Tls. 40. Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.—The report and accounts for 1902 were presented and passed at a meeting of shareholders held yesterday. The net profits amount to Tls. 114,422.39=29.60 per cent on the capital as against 20.68 per cent in the previous year. Including a balance of Tls. 6,240.52 brought forward and deducting an interim dividend of 6 per cent, paid on the 25th July, there was a balance of Tls. 96,662.91 at credit of profit and loss account. A dividend of 6 per cent, and a bonus of 4 per cent, were declared, absorbing Tls. 40,000 (making 16 per cent for the year), Tls. 21,620.29 were written off for depreciation, Tls. 25,000 were transferred to renewals and depreciation account, Tls. 4,900 were paid as a bonus to the foreign staff, and Tls. 5,142.62 were carried forward. A resolution proposed by two shareholders to increase the directors' fees from Tls. 3,000 to Tls. 5,000 per annum was carried. China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.—The report and accounts for 1902 were presented and passed at a meeting of shareholders held on the 16th inst. The net profits for the year amount to Tls. 55,101.52=27.55 per cent on the capital. Including a balance of Tls. 4,344.63 brought forward from 1901, and deducting an interim dividend of 6 per cent, paid in September, there was a sum of Tls. 47,446.15 available. A final dividend of 1 1/2 per cent, (making 2 1/2 per cent for the year) was declared absorbing Tls. 23,000. Tls. 1,910,000 were written off from plant; Tls. 15,000 were placed to credit of reserve fund increasing it to Tls. 20,000, and a balance of Tls. 2,536.15 was carried forward. Paper and Pulp changed hands at Tls. 117. Maatschappij, &c in Langkat. A very large business is recorded in this stock; on February 18th the market opened with sales Tls. 217 1/2, 220 March, 225 May, 230 June. On the 19th sales were effected at 217 1/2 cash and 216 1/4 for the settlement, 220 March, 224 1/2 April, 237 1/2 June. On the 20th cash at 217 1/2 and 220; 22 1/2 February, 220/225 March, 231 June. On the 21st at 225 cash and settlement, and 237 1/2 June. On the 23rd 230/235/240/245 cash, 240/240 April, 255 June, 250 for March and 242 1/2/252 for April and later. On

the 24th at 250 & 245 cash, 250/255 April, 252 1/2 May. Later the market weakened and shares changed hands, although unquoted, at 242 1/2 and 240 for cash. To-day the market has strengthened and shares have been done at 247 1/2 cash and 252 1/2 April. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 60, 51 1/2, 52 1/2 for cash. Shanghai Waterworks. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 410 cash. **STORES AND HOTELS.**—Watsons have changed hands at \$14 Ex. 73. Hall & Holtz at \$24, and Weeks at 24. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—The only business to report is in Horse Bazaars at Tls. 150 and 152 1/2 for March. **LOANS.**—Business is reported in the Municipal 6 per cent. debentures at Tls. 180 1/2. Stocks under this heading generally are wanted.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—

ARRIVALS.

- 27. Emma Luken, German str., for Saigon.
- 27. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 27. Hongbee, British str., from Singapore.
- 28. Bombay Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.
- 28. Fukui Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 28. Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
- 28. Glengyle, British str., from Shanghai.
- 28. Haldia, Norwegian str., from Penang.
- 28. Kintuck, British str., from Singapore.
- 28. Kweiyang, British str., from Hoilo.
- 28. Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 28. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Auping.
- 28. Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
- 28. Rose, British ship, from Freemantle.
- 28. Taksang, British str., from Chefoo.

March—

- 1. Airlie, British str., from Kobe.
- 1. Glenfarg, British str., from Singapore.
- 1. Else, German str., from Manila.
- 1. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
- 1. Kinai Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 1. Kinshiu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 1. Kwo-gsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 1. Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 1. Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 1. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 1. Wongkoi, German str., from Swatow.
- 2. Bullyses, British str., from Pulo Sambo.
- 2. Brunhilde, German str., from Saigon.
- 2. Doyo Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 2. Hailan, French str., from Hoilow.
- 2. Quarta, German str., from Saigon.
- 2. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 3. Ailsa Craig, British str., from K'notzn.
- 3. Banca, British str., from Yokohama.
- 3. C. F. Laeisz, German str., from Shanghai.
- 3. Freiburg, German str., from Hamburg.
- 3. Hailoong, British str., from Amoy.
- 3. Kaifong, British str., from Ileilo.
- 3. Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 3. Marie Jebson, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
- 3. Preussen, German str., from Yokohama.
- 3. Pyrrhus, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3. Sishau, British str., from Saigon.
- 3. Singan, British str., from Canton.
- 3. Talbot, British cruiser, from a cruise.
- 4. Albion, British battleship, from Amoy.
- 4. Blenheim, British cruiser, from Weihaiwei.
- 4. Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Celebes.
- 4. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 4. Fearless, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 4. Shini Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
- 4. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 4. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 4. Shimosa, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4. Chattenham, British str., from Rangoon.
- 5. Cre-ay, British cruiser, from Amoy.
- 5. Eclipse, British cruiser, from Amoy.
- 5. Chingtu, British str., from Melbourne.
- 5. Glaucus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 5. Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5. Lena, Norwegian str., from Sourabaya.
- 5. Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5. Patchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5. Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
- 5. Progress, Norw. str., from Chinkiang.
- 5. Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
- 5. Szechuen, British str., from Canton.
- 5. Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5. Tiantai, British str., from Kobe.
- 5. Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6. Anamca, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 6. Benclench, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 6. Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.

- 6. Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzn.
- 6. Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from S. F. China.
- 6. Humber, British str., from Weihaiwei.
- 6. Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 6. Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
- 6. Seirstad, Norwegian str., from Singapore.
- 6. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 6. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 7. Aki Maru, Japanese str., from Nagasaki.
- 7. Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
- 7. Changsha, British str., from Yokohama.
- 7. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7. Denteros, German str., from Wuhu.
- 7. H. D. Troop, Amr. ship, from New York.
- 7. Oceana, German str., from Sydney.

February—

DEPARTURES.

- 28. Pronto, German str., for Shanghai.
- 28. Bengal, British str., for Europe.
- 28. Kohsichang, German str., for Hoilow.
- 28. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 28. Labor, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 28. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 28. Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
- 28. Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
- 28. Wingsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 28. Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.

March—

- 1. Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
- 1. Chowfa, German str., for Hoilow.
- 1. Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
- 1. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 1. Glengyle, British str., for London.
- 1. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 1. Hongkong, French str., for Hoilow.
- 1. Iudrapura, British str., for Portland, Or.
- 1. Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
- 1. Maria Rickmers, German str., for Wuhu.
- 1. Taishan, British str., for Amoy.
- 2. Callao, American gunboat, for Canton.
- 2. Din, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.
- 2. Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 2. Hashidate, Jap. cr., for S'pore & C'ombo.
- 2. Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 2. Iltis, German gunboat, for Swatow.
- 2. Itsukushima, Jap. cr., for S'pore & C'ombo.
- 2. Kintuck, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2. Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
- 2. Matsushima, Jap. cr., for S'pore & C'ombo.
- 2. Taksang, British str., for Canton.
- 2. Talbot, British cruiser, for a cruise.
- 2. Tiger, German gunboat, for Kiaochow.
- 2. Valetta, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2. Apennine, German str., for Hoilow.
- 3. Faldia, German str., for Amoy.
- 3. Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoilow.
- 3. Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 3. Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
- 3. Loksang, British str., for Swatow.
- 3. Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 3. Saphir, Norwegian str., for Tournou.
- 3. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 3. Yushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 4. Arnold Luyken, German str., for Saigon.
- 4. Clara Jebson, German str., for Saigon.
- 4. Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
- 4. Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoilow.
- 4. Kinshiu Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
- 4. Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
- 4. Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4. Kweiyang, British str., for Amoy.
- 4. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 4. Marie Jebson, German str., for Canton.
- 4. P. C. C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
- 4. Preussen, German str., for Europe.
- 4. Taksang, British str., for Canton.
- 5. Ailsa Craig, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 5. Airlie, British str., for Saigon.
- 5. Ayr, Norwegian str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 5. Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 5. Chunsang, British str., for Canton.
- 5. C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Hamburg.
- 5. Else, German str., for Saigon.
- 5. Emma Luken, German str., for Saigon.
- 5. Glenfarg, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5. Gregory Apar, Brit. str., for Singapore.
- 5. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
- 5. Hansa, German str., for Chinkiang.
- 5. Hupeh, British str., for Saigon.
- 5. Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
- 5. Neptune, British str., for Bangkok.
- 5. Saturn, American str., for New York.
- 5. Singan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6. Banca, British str., for London.
- 6. Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoilow.
- 6. Chattenham, British str., for Yokohama.
- 6. Dagmar, German str., for Shanghai.

6. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 6. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 6. Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 6. Kinai Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 6. Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 6. Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Palambang.
 6. Savola, German str., for Kobe.
 6. Shimosa, British str., for New York.
 6. Szechuen, British str., for Chinkiang.
 6. Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 6. Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 7. Bulyses, British str., for Singapore.
 7. Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
 7. Glaucon, British str., for Shanghai.
 7. Hakata Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 7. Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
 7. Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 7. Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 7. Pyrrhus, British str., for London.
 7. Robilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 7. Taksang, British str., for Ningpo.
 7. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 7. Wineland, British str., for Hoihow.
 7. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 8. Arnold Lu ken, German str., for Saigon.
 8. Argo, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 8. Brunhil, e, German str., for Saigon.
 8. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 8. Doyo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 8. Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 8. Lisa, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 8. Labor, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 8. Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
 8. Shantung, British str., for Amoy.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong. Mrs. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. H. von Ruoker, Mrs. S. E. Sykes, Messrs. T. W. Mitchell and F. Smyth; for London, Messrs. W. Whitecombe and L. P. Solomon; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Thurner and Miss M. Murrey.

Per *Gregory Apar*, from Calcutta, Mrs. and Miss Manuk and two children, Mrs. Kerr and child, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Ruoff, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Shellim, Mrs. Ezra, Miss McGauley, Miss Judah, Messrs. Malcolm, Cunningham, Judah and Capt. Hood.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. Spicker, Miss G. A. Spicker and Mr. J. M. Spiker, Mrs. C. M. Baner, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Pitcher, Mrs. Morris, Comdr. Marix and Miss A. Marix, Judge H. C. Ide, Dr. J. McMullen, Lieut. Tilford and Fitch, Messrs. J. J. Kelgam, Gordon, J. H. Grufkens, M. Foyon, S. B. Trissell and H. J. Rosenkrantz.

Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Rev. and Mrs. Beard and 4 children, Rev. and Mrs. Bland and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Luci, Mrs. Bryson, Miss Bell, Capt. A. Milroy, and Mr. Thompson.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Gen. E. S. and Mrs. Bragg, Dr. W. W. and Mrs. Seely, Mr. and Mrs. Todd and 2 children, Mr. H. W. and Mrs. Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Mrs. E. H. Parrish, Mrs. L. Levy and infant, Misses G. H., H. and E. Seely and White, Gen. S. A. Ricardo, Messrs. B. Cadwallader, W. Newton, T. C. S. Haly, Harry M. Robbins, James Green, K. Otatsume, D. Samson and J. Dayet.

Per *Glenfarg*, from Singapore, for Shanghai, Mr. Mayall.

Per *Suisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. and Mrs. McCleod and Mr. Lee.

Per *Kishiu Maru*, from Shanghai, Capt. Cape, Messrs. H. Thomson, G. McLean, G. McGregor, M. Fujita and J. Stevenson.

Per *Valletta*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Norbury, Mrs. Townshend and infant, Staff-Sergt. and Mrs. Palmer and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews and infant and Mr. Andrews, jr., Sergt. and Mrs. Wells and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Wardells, Mr. and Mrs. Henshaw, Naval Cadet Colville, Midshipmen H. B. Harbottle, J. W. Seddon, E. H. Walter, V. B. Butler, P. Harper, H. E. Monroe and G. O. Billier, Sub-Lieut. G. A. E. Head, 2nd-Lieut. Milward, Rev. W. F. Knox, Mr. and Miss C. L. L. and Miss Robertson, Messrs. B. Lugg, E. W. Misen, W. McComae, J. W. Turner, Wm. Chambers, F. R. Smith, W. H. Wilson, Smith and P. C. Macfarlane; from Marseilles, Capt. Mrs. and Miss Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Johnstone, Rt. Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Hoare and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Paul, Mr. and Mrs.

Emerson, Miss L. Cause, 2nd Lieut. Dutton and Mr. Schenkel; from Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Cook; from Penang, Mr. and Miss Walker; from Singapore, Sergt. Paley, Messrs. J. Henry, Fookes, Davis, R. Borthwick, Shimado and Martin; for Shanghai, from London, Miss C. Llewellyn and Mr. A. Hund; from Marseilles, Mrs. H. Cookburn, Rev. and Mrs. D. Morley and two children, Miss A. G. Money and Mr. C. W. Cross; from Penang, Messrs. Otami, Hino, Uchura and Matsutomo; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. Mrs. and Miss P. C. Marsden, Mr. and Mrs. Peckham, Misses Cox (2), Messrs. C. Calves, R. and E. Knight; from Marseilles, Mr. G. A. Cox; from Singapore, Mr. L. Peck; for Kobe, from London, Mr. F. B. Walker.

Per *Kaifong*, from Cebu, &c., Mrs. Y. Pina, Lieut. R. B. Lister, Misses R. Cardenas and A. Atillo, Messrs. V. Atillo, C. H. Balfour, J. C. Nichols, W. A. Watson and M. Kiado.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mrs. B. Baranda, Mrs. E. P. Wheeler, Dr. J. L. Albon, Messrs. A. Heredio, E. Schweitzer, J. Trillo, J. Montes, F. R. Lahesa, C. Montes, R. Lafuente and Robt. McWilliam.

Per *Preussen*, from Yokohama, &c., Mrs. Pitakoff and four children, Messrs. J. Emerson, W. Marfield, W. Traulmann, F. J. Engelken, S. M. Berger, D. C. Campbell, H. J. Reid, W. D. Herman, S. Samson, B. Zaum, A. M. Ferras, S. Weinberg, D. Mackenzie, Chas. O'Neill, E. Anderson and family, Mr. L. Komar and family, and Capt. Kohler.

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Per *Robilla Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Poniterdexter, Dr. and Mrs. McManahan, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Miller, Comdr. Norris, Lieut. Walker, Messrs. P. Landon, Hatrick and Parish.

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Per *Prinz Heinrich*, for Hongkong, from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. Cumming, Miss Alice Spence, and Mr. T. Fischer; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Adler, Messrs. H. E. Kahn, F. Lieb, Caesar Bruckner and Gust. Marcus; from Colombo, Mrs. C. W. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Noyes, Mr. and Mrs. R. Gunprecht, Miss M. B. Hill and Mr. A. S. Pemberton; from Penang, Rev. and Mrs. M. F. Kirkpatrick, Dr. and Mrs. M. Soule, Mrs. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. La sell and Rev. Storrs; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. A. Frowein, Mr. and Mrs. Gold, Lord Dunward, Messrs. L. Brnell, I. M. and A. M. Marshall, Elliot Snow, H. Melladew, A. Turner, W. Porter, J. Yokoi, Meikle, I. Sterne, J. Fernandez, John Carrigg and Dr. McClosky.

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Per *Mausang*, from Sandakan, Miss Marcus, Messrs. Ashniz, Taylor, Schleifer and Murray.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from Yokohama, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. A. Davis, T. Nishio, I. Takamura, K. Hayashi and R. Kubata; for Singapore, Misses E. Curtis and H. D. Smith, Messrs. H. Coanwell, H. Kinghorn and F. Hako-shima; for Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Schleuter; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. P. Ossent and two children, Mrs. M. Kunagawa, M. Uyama, Y. Shibayama, K. Terao, K. Kanon and Mr. K. Toda; for London, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Barden and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Winble and child, Mrs. C. Buchanan and child, Messrs. K. Hirata, S. Dei, S. Shimomura, W. Ellis and R. Mitchell.

DEPARTED.

Per *Inaba Maru*, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. James Orr.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mrs. E. L. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. L. de Lora, Messrs. M. Osorio, J. A. Ross, C. S. Nicholson, J. Young, Usuf Khan, De Sandi, Bajera, and Nebab.

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